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# Saipan Tribune

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## OPINION METER

This week's poll:

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest and 5 the highest, how would you rate your level of optimism in the new Inos-Hofsneider administration?

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China launches stealth missile frigate amid tensions.

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Transparency, cost-cutting in quite a 'perfect storm'. **PAGE 3**  
Request to eliminate Tinian airport's PFC nixed. **PAGE 6**

### AS A RESULT OF 'SEQUESTRATION'

# PSS to lose over \$660K

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
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REPORTER

The CNMI Public School System stands to lose more than half a million in federal dollars starting Friday due to the expected sequestration—or automatic budget cuts—that will take effect on March 1, according to Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D., yesterday.

PSS has received notice from the U.S. Department of Education about cuts in the amount of USDOE grants that will be awarded to the system, ranging from 5 to 9 percent, said Sablan.

PSS has so far identified two federal grants that will first be affected: the consolidated grant and the special education program.

CNMI public schools were earlier ap-

See PSS on Page 4

### BEFORE THE MEETING

Gov. Eloy S. Inos, left, shares a light moment with Lt. Gov. Jude V. Hofsneider before the start of their 9am meeting with lawmakers in the governor's conference room on Capitol Hill yesterday. The eight-day-old Inos administration asked for, and received, commitment from lawmakers to work together in saving the pension and healthcare systems, cut government spending to live within its means and come up with revenue-generating initiatives.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

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# Buckingham posts \$50K bail

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

Fugitive and former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham, through his counsel Brien Sers Nicholas, posted bail yesterday in the amount of \$50,000.

Sers Nicholas handed a cashier's check

worth \$50,000 to the Superior Court's clerk of court.

Upon posting bail, the clerk of court ordered Buckingham to return to court on March 18, 2013, at 9am.

The defendant's failure to appear in the hearing set above will result in a bench war-

See BUCKINGHAM on Page 4



## January visitor arrivals up 3 pct.

January 2013 visitor arrivals to the Northern Mariana Islands were up 3 percent compared to January 2012. According to the Marianas Visitors Authority, arrivals to the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota registered 39,391 visitors in January compared to 38,263 in January 2012.

See JANUARY on Page 4

## Search fails to locate missing snorkeler

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

Search and rescue teams failed yesterday to locate a 61-year-old Canadian who was swept out to sea from Obyan Beach while snorkeling late Tuesday afternoon.

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# Local

## NMI agri sector takes first step toward creating cooperative



CLARISSA V. DAVID

California Center for Cooperative Development executive director E. Kim Coontz and assistant director and food and agriculture cooperative development specialist Luis Sierra address the participants of the Agricultural Cooperative Development Training yesterday.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
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REPORTER

The challenges facing the CNMI's agricultural industry present opportunities that can be tapped and further enhanced with the establishment of a cooperative, local farming leaders said Wednesday at the opening of the Agricultural Cooperative Development Training.

Some 130 agricultural producers on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota took part in the three-day workshop at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort & Spa, which aims to provide training on co-

operative business structures and strategies.

Ross Manglona, Northern Marianas College – Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Service director, said that developing an agricultural cooperative in the Commonwealth is "a step forward" for an industry that is "at a crossroad."

Manglona said that rising production costs and labor and immigration uncertainties are among the issues that confront farmers daily. In this day and age, he said, farmers also need to respond to the increasing food production needs as tourist

arrivals gather speed.

A cooperative, Manglona noted, is one detail needed to secure a "better" performance for the CNMI's agricultural community, adding that a successful cooperative would require the active participation of all farmers.

Secretary Arnold I. Palacios of the Department of Land and Natural Resources agrees, saying that the opportunities that arise from the challenges would provide "mutual benefits" for farmers and other agricultural producers.

Palacios also underscored

the need to share the "wealth of knowledge" that industry players have gained from previous cooperatives, which he said would be valuable in the development of a successful agricultural industry in the islands.

The three-day training is being conducted by California Center for Cooperative Development executive director E. Kim Coontz and assistant director and food and agriculture cooperative development specialist Luis Sierra. Both have

extensive experience starting up and working with cooperatives.

Wednesday's whole-day training involved discussions on cooperative definition, concepts, and types, steps, and resources in production and marketing process. The event also featured case studies and exercises and would continue throughout today and Friday.

Ramon B. Camacho, president of the Saipan Sabalu Farmers Market, Inc., which received the technical assistance grant to

make the training possible, said he looks forward to the creation of a cooperative in the CNMI.

According to Camacho, the cooperative is one puzzle piece that would be critical to ongoing efforts to promote agri-tourism, encouraging farmers to continue this important and long-standing tradition.

Camacho said their group will work hard to have the Garapan Fishing Base complex be used as the site for a proposed farmers market on island.

## Proposed salary hike for NMC employees juked

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
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REPORTER

The Board of Regents juked yesterday the management's budget proposal that included adjusting the salaries and wages of employees next fiscal year.

Instead, it approved the submission of a "conservative" budget to the Office of Management and Budget amounting to \$6.3 million for fiscal year 2014.

During yesterday's special meeting, the board's fiscal committee chair, Frank Rabauliman, disclosed that his panel received and reviewed four budget proposals from management, some of which included salary hikes for college personnel.

However, he said the committee decided not to recommend one particular proposal to give the full board the opportunity to select the best option.

Regent William Torres raised concerns about the salary adjustments, citing its implications on the compensation policy of the college.

"There's major policy impli-

cations in these proposals," said Torres, adding that NMC must also adhere to the directive from Capital Hill regarding salary hikes and adjustments.

After a 15-minute closed-door session, board members unanimously adopted one of the budget proposals, which requests a \$6.3 million budget for 2014.

NMC president Sharon Y. Hart, Ph.D., right after the vote, expressed disappointment over the regents' choice to thumb down any of the proposals that recommended a salary hike for personnel.

"I am concerned with our accreditation...being able to keep and find people for this institution because of the salaries. We understand the difficult economic times but at the same time, we have other issues that we need to deal with," said Hart during deliberations.

Hart informed the board that the Accrediting Commission for Colleges and Junior Colleges notified NMC this week that it will continue to monitor the institution's financial sustainability.

### 11 critical posts to be filled

In his presentation to the board yesterday, dean of administration Dave Attao disclosed that the \$6.326 million proposed budget for fiscal year 2014 is composed of the following elements: \$5.571 million for personnel and benefits; \$700,000 for utilities; and \$55,712 for all others.

NMC's budget this fiscal year is at \$5.2 million. The college had asked the central government for \$7.9 million.

Attao described the \$6.3 million budget plan as "bare bones" and that no salary adjustment is anticipated.

He said that funding for the hiring of 11 critically needed positions for accreditation are factored in. Among these positions are the chief financial administrative officer, information technology director and support staff, and other administrative capacities.

The fiscal year 2014 budget submission will fund 118 positions, of which 107 are currently filled. The 118 positions, he said, is a drastic drop from last year's 155 FTEs, of which 130 were filled.

According to Attao, a budget below \$4.9 million or \$5.2 million for NMC will mean putting the institution's accreditation at risk again.

NMC has only until October this year to rectify all deficiencies cited by the accrediting commission or its accreditation will be revoked next year.

He told *Saipan Tribune* that all four budget proposals endorsed to the committee were reviewed by the college councils and governance.

NMC has two main funding sources: local appropriation mainly for its personnel salaries and the tuition and fees of students, which cover the college's operations and other programs.

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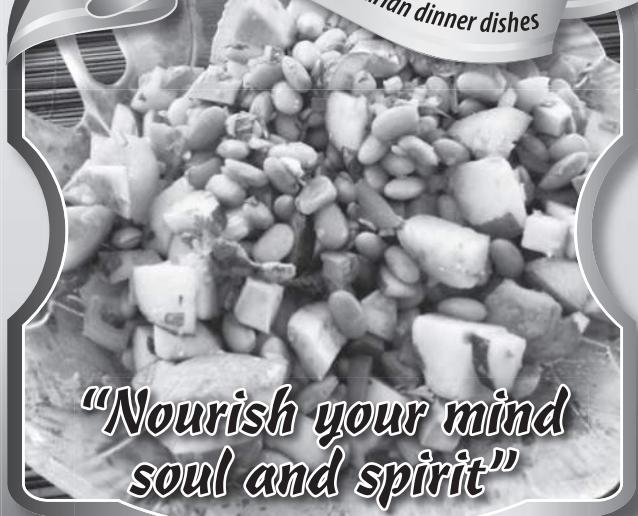
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**INOS, LAWMAKERS HOLD FIRST JOINT LEADERSHIP MEETING****Transparency, cost-cutting in quite a 'perfect storm'**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

Transparency, spending cuts, revenue-generation, and saving the pension and healthcare systems were among the key areas that Gov. Eloy S. Inos, along with Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofsneider, asked lawmakers yesterday for help in this period he described as a "perfect storm," given the looming federal funding cuts, a still delicate tourism industry, and too little time left for this term to turn things around.

The new governor got the lawmakers' cooperation during their first joint leadership meeting that lasted three hours on Capital Hill yesterday.

As of yesterday, the Inos administration got confirmation of federal grant cuts for the CNMI Office of Homeland Security and expects more reports in the days ahead.

This is a result of the so-called "sequestration," a series of automatic, across-the-board cuts to U.S. government agencies totaling \$1.2 trillion over 10 years taking effect March 1. The CNMI has been getting more in federal funds than it can generate locally from tax and fee collections.

"We may need to rethink how we're going to reduce the local expenditures in the face of having to cushion any reduction in availability of federal grants," he said.

When asked whether there might be allotment cuts as what was previously done by the Fitial administration, Inos said, "There might be."

"If that's done, it would be to spread available funds to cushion the reduction in federal programs," he said.

The governor said there's review of and consideration of pulling out requests for proposals and other projects to "redirect" funds to more press-

## Man, 65, allegedly rapes woman in front of her child

A 65-year-old man was arrested on Tuesday night in Garapan for allegedly raping a woman in front of her minor child.

Joaquin Reyes Lizama was taken to the Superior Court yesterday for his initial appearance on charges of rape, disturbing the peace, oral copulation, and indecent exposure.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman imposed a \$50,000 cash bail for Lizama's temporary release.

Preliminary hearing will be on March 5 at 1:30pm.

Police detective Flora Danica Aguon stated in her report that the alleged rape happened inside a motel in Gualo Rai last Feb. 19.

It was the cousin of the al-

ing ones such as those for the Commonwealth Health Center and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

He reiterated that his administration placed a temporary halt to hiring and salary changes as they review the recent changes to civil service law and assess human resource needs of the government as a whole.

House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) and Rep. Cris Leon Guerrero (Cov-Saipan), along with Inos, confirmed the formation of two joint House-Senate committees—one focused on drawing up plans to reduce government spending and one that will come up with proposals to generate revenues.

While similar efforts failed in the past, lawmakers and the new administration are more hopeful this time around.

For one, the governor wants another meeting next week for an update on the specific proposals and then put them into motion.

"This is just the first meeting of the leadership. We plan to continue to meet, but there's no sense in meeting and meeting [but] no action. So we want to give everybody time to go back, and work on the issues that we talked about, come back and report, and hopefully try to get things moving," Inos said.

Among the differences this time around is that sitting governor, Inos, is not pushing for "just one" idea, said Deleon Guerrero, referring to Fitial's strong push for legalization of casino operations on Saipan.

House minority leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) said there's "nothing too specific but some [pieces of] legislation shall be forthcoming.

"So we'll see exactly what are they. Everyone seems to be on board and wants to work together. I am hopeful we will

start to see solutions. We continue to face the same issues, be it the economy or Retirement Fund. It's just a matter of how much sacrifice we can give and how creative everyone can be," he said.

These same issues that yesterday's joint leadership meeting focused on are prolonging the lifespan of the NMI Retirement Fund, helping the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., lowering utility costs, as well as reducing government spending and finding ways to generate revenues.

### Laying the groundwork

Inos said the meeting "laid the groundwork for what we

all expect within the next 18 months, maybe 20 months, for this administration and most of the folks here."

The former lieutenant governor ascended to his current post when former governor Benigno R. Fitial resigned on Feb. 20, days ahead of the start of the latter's impeachment trial at the Senate.

Fitial's term was supposed to expire January 2015; the next general election is in November 2014. Inos is expected to run in 2014 but the administration said it is not focused on that right now.

"So we kind of agreed that we will be working together closely on the issues, find a

way to be more transparent, and work together to expedite legislation, policy issues that require action," he said.

Except for Rep. Teresita Santos (R-Rota) who was absent, Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) who remains in jail, and one vacancy, all other 26 Senate and House members showed up to meet with Inos and Hofsneider. Santos said last night she was under the impression that the meeting was only between the House and Senate leaderships and the administration.

The House speaker said that while the House and Senate, for example, have already been working on Fund issues,

they also want open communication with the Inos administration so that there would be unified efforts.

Rep. Trenton Conner (Ind-Tinian) said he fully supports plans to help the Fund and pursue alternative energy.

He also said he will help work on the economic aspects related to transitional Commonwealth-only workers, or CW workers. Conner is chairman of the House Committee on Foreign and Federal Relations.

Senate President Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) said he welcomes "working together" and having "open communication" with the administration.

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## Inos: Performance, not politics key to Cabinet changes

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

Government departments, boards, and other agencies have only until today to submit their budget request and progress reports that will be the key consideration for Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider in deciding which Cabinet members and other appointees will be replaced.

## Marpi landfill's emergency contract is extended anew

Acting Public Works secretary Anthony Camacho said yesterday that the Marpi landfill equipment operator's emergency contract has been extended anew up to March when they expect to wrap up the procurement process and award a three-year contract to one of the bidders.

As this developed, House Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications Committee chair Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan) asked Gov. Eloy S. Inos to cancel the Marpi landfill RFP until waste-to-energy or gasification technology for the landfill

is considered.

Camacho said they have narrowed down the five original bidders to three. He said these three bidders will be interviewed by the evaluation committee next week.

Deleon Guerrero said the landfill should incorporate gasification technology as the CNMI moves toward using alternative sources of energy. An investor presentation on Friday on gasification potential in the CNMI has been postponed.

The House PUTC chair, however, said the governor took his request un-

der advisement.

office on Feb. 20, they have so far asked for and received two courtesy resignations—that of senior policy adviser Dr. John Joyner and former governor Benigno R. Fitial's executive secretary Lucy Cabrera.

Inos clarified that he did not ask for mass courtesy resignations because he wanted to give each agency, board, and commission the chance to report on their agency's performance, chal-

lenges, successes, and their goals then decide from there.

The governor said his administration is looking at "program performances."

"At this point they are not really individuals; they are more on programs... There is reason, justification for everything that is happening or not happening," he said.

Moreover, he said the administration does not want mass courtesy resignations because this might affect government operations.

"So we just want to make sure whenever we have a change in management that we always have a fallback because time is so critical, the issues are important that we don't have the luxury of time to have a void in the program system... [If] I ask this person to step aside, I should be ready to put somebody in charge to keep going," he added.

Special assistant for management and budget Virginia Villagomez gave government expenditure authorities up to today to submit their proposed

budget and spending plans for fiscal year 2014.

This will give the Office of Management and Budget time to prepare the administration's proposed budget, which must be submitted to the Legislature by April 1.

The 2014 budget or projected revenues available for government operations will remain at \$114 million, just like the fiscal year 2013 level, Inos said.

## Buckingham extradition

Inos also said his administration is still reviewing the Office of the Public Auditor's recommendation to extradite former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham. He said it's "not an easy thing."

"It's a work in progress. And hopefully pretty soon, in the very, very near future we have closure to this," he added.

On Tuesday, the House adopted a joint resolution requesting Inos and Attorney General Joey Patrick San Nicolas to extradite Buckingham to face criminal charges.

2012 order.

That order refers to Wiseman's granting of an *ex parte* petition of the Office of the Public Auditor appointing OPA counsel George Hasselback as special prosecutor in the criminal case against Buckingham. The judge unsealed the order only on Jan. 16, 2013.

In his Aug. 17 order, Wiseman ruled that the Office of the Attorney General is disqualified from prosecuting both Buckingham and his suspected co-conspirators.

OPA filed criminal misdemeanor charges against Buckingham in connection with an alleged violation of election laws and illegal award of a sole-source contract, among others.

An FBI agent reportedly served Buckingham with the penal summons at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport shortly before he and his wife left Saipan on a 6am Delta Air Lines flight to Narita, Japan on Aug. 4, 2012.

professional development of personnel, grants for library books and materials, and other school needs.

The \$8.4 million consolidated grant itself funds school assessments to the tune of \$900,000. It also pays for the Troops to Teacher program (\$749,065) and \$6.7 million goes to the needs of public and private schools. It was through this grant that PSS was able to fund the salaries of some classroom teachers, career and technical education program, after-school activities, students' laptops, distance education, and professional development workshops.

The special education program grant, on the other hand, covers the salary of teachers and specialists, and needs of students with disabilities, among others. Sablan said that after reviewing which areas to cut, a recommendation will be endorsed to the Board of Education.

Among the options for PSS, she said, is to hold off buying school materials and supplies that are not immediately needed. PSS, she added, will also look at positions that it can temporarily freeze.

"I know everybody is concerned [of] what is going to happen to the programs and services. Since last year, we've been informing schools and discussing [with] them where we can map out a plan in the event sequestration takes effect. I want to assure our teachers, students, and families that we will do our very best so that the delivery of services inside the classrooms will not be impacted," added the commissioner.

## SEARCH

From Page 1

As of 5:50pm yesterday, searchers have yet to locate missing snorkeler Reinhold Armo Meister, according to Department of Public Safety spokesman Sgt. Thomas Blas Jr.

"Search operation continues tomorrow," Blas said.

The DPS Fire Search and Rescue Unit, CNMI Homeland Security Office, Emergency Management Office, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam, and a U.S. Navy helicopter joined in the search.

The Navy helicopter did an aerial search on Tuesday at 8:50pm, from Naftan Point west to Aagingan Point and between Saipan and Tinian.

Blas said the command post set up for the search is still in operation and efforts to locate the missing man will continue for the next two days.

DPS Patrol and Boating Safety officers responded to a call of an overdue swimmer at Obyan Beach on Tuesday at 6:30pm.

Boating Safety vessel *Zodiac II* was launched from Smiling Cove Marina to respond.

Responding officers met Meister's wife at the scene and learned that her husband had not returned from snorkeling in the waters off Obyan Beach.

Blas said the *Zodiac II* conducted a surface search along the reef line from Aagingan Point east to Obyan Beach, and Naftan Point.

Blas said a command post was then

set up at Ladder Beach.

The U.S. Coast Guard said the snorkeler was reportedly last seen in the water off Obyan Beach at 4:45pm Tuesday, wearing a long-sleeved blue shirt, a pair of yellow shorts, and a diving mask with snorkel.

EMO notified the Coast Guard about the incident Tuesday at 7:30pm after his wife reported him missing.

Exactly a week ago, 60-year-old Gennadi Kosolapkin drowned while snorkeling outside the reef off Obyan Beach.

Kosolapkin's body was located at 9:40pm by a Guam U.S. Coast Guard helicopter about half a mile south of Obyan Beach. He was later pronounced dead at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Arrivals from China were also essentially flat in January, rising 2 percent to 7,791 visitors. In addition to six weekly flights from Shanghai and Guangzhou, two weekly direct nonstop flights operate from Beijing to Saipan. In conjunction with Century Tours, DFS Saipan, and other key China travel agents, the MVA China office has launched a large-scale billboard, subway advertising, PR and travel trade campaign which runs through March, in support of the Beijing flights and targeting post-Chinese New Year low season.

In a positive sign of the CNMI's rapidly growing stature as a world-class destination in the China market, China's leading online travel agency Ctrip recently published its Island Popularity rankings and for the first time, Saipan entered the Top 10 most popular island destinations for Chinese travelers, ranked as follows: Hainan (China), Phuket (Thailand), Bali (Indonesia), Maldives, Jeju (Korea), Hawaii, Sabah (Malaysia), Saipan, Okinawa (Japan), and Koh Samui (Thailand).

In comparison to flat arrivals from Japan, Korea, and China in January, with the launch of biweekly direct charter flights from Vladivostok to Saipan in late October, arrivals from Russia leaped 52 percent in January to 1,043 and are expected to see continued rapid growth throughout 2013.

## Economic highlights

For the first time since June 2012, the

Japanese Cabinet Office upgraded its monthly economic assessment. Private consumption is holding firm, and business sentiment is improving thanks to higher stock prices and weaker yen exchange rates.

Korea's export growth is gradually slowing down and domestic demand has weakened slightly. SERI (Samsung Economic Research Institute) announced some major trends in 2012: distress in the Korean economy and sluggish domestic demand, instability in North Korea, changes in the political landscape due to elections, and heated competition for differentiated service and content to viewers following the entry of general cable TV broadcasters in 2011 that ended a decades-old monopoly by three terrestrial broadcasters. The won/dollar exchange rate declined 21.8 from previous month to close at 1,124.7.

China's National Bureau of Statistics reported the nation's economic expansion slowed to 7.8 percent for 2012 amid external jitters and domestic woes. China's Foreign Exchange Trading System reported the Chinese currency renminbi, or yuan, weakened 22 basis points to 6.2767 against the U.S. dollar on Jan. 16. Research conducted by China Tourism Academy estimates that outbound visitor numbers will reach 94.3 million in 2013, up 15 percent, and expenditure will rise 20 percent to \$117.6 billion. (MVA)

proved a consolidated grant of \$8.4 million for fiscal year 2013. Factoring in the 5-percent cut starting tomorrow, Sablan said the award will be reduced by about \$422,000.

For the special education grant, about \$240,000 will be slashed from the \$4.8 million that was approved for PSS this fiscal year. The cut translates to a 5-percent reduction.

Besides these two federal grants, other grants may also be affected, Sablan said.

"We haven't computed yet the impact to our other federal grants...but we know that they're looking at a 5- to 9-percent reduction too. What we received from USDOE this week is an official communication about [the cuts on] these two federal grants," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune*.

PSS is now revising its budget for these two programs. Sablan said that "careful assessment and review" is needed to determine which areas can afford the cuts.

PSS receives each fiscal year about \$30 million in federal grants. These include, among others, the school breakfast and lunch meal program, which has a \$10-million allocation from U.S. Department of Agriculture. Other programs that rely on federal dollars are the Head Start program, the E-rate program, reading program, and some small grants for

# Crisostomo found guilty of 'ice' possession, contempt

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho convicted habitual offender Joseph Acosta Crisostomo yesterday on charges of being found in possession of methamphetamine or "ice" last year.

As this developed, Crisostomo's preliminary hearing yesterday for the kidnapping and murder of bartender Emerita Romero was reset for today, Thursday at 1:30pm.

In a bench trial that lasted only a day, 39-year-old Crisostomo was found guilty of illegal possession of controlled substance and criminal contempt. He will be sentenced today, Thursday, at 1:30pm.



Crisostomo

Court-appointed counsel Robert Torres withdrew as counsel for Crisostomo as he represents a company that offered a cash reward for information in the murder case.

At the trial, Camacho found the testimonies of the government's witnesses credible, particularly the testimonies of police officer T.J. Yangetmai and Guam Police Department's criminalist Ana-

The charges carry a maximum penalty of five years and six months in prison. Camacho is known for imposing maximum sentences and rejecting lenient plea deals.

lyn Gatus Akigami. It was police officers Yangetmai and Tyrone Teregeyo who came upon Crisostomo and John Namauleg inside a car at a secluded beach in Susupe during routine patrol. The officers seized from the two drug paraphernalia that contained residue that, according to Akigami, was positive for methamphetamine or "ice."

## Zoning board decries 'nasty,' 'unpleasant' public hearing

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Zoning Board wants to come up with a policy that would prevent members of the public from "attacking" investors applying for permits in future public hearings.

This recommendation was offered on Feb. 21 after board chair Diego Blanco questioned the need for a second public hearing on a conditional-use application submitted by EY Corp. to operate a synthetic ice skating facility on public land across the Superior Court.

Blanco argued that the board should have decided on the merit of the application during the first public hearing on Jan. 17.

Board members described that public hearing as "nasty," "unpleasant" and "ugly" after two community members opposed the company's project site, saying it is an ancient Chamorro burial site.

This claim prompted Zoning administrator Therese T. Ogumoro to recommend scheduling a second public hearing to solicit further comments from the public, including the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and its attached agencies. DCCA is EMO warns of rough seas, high surf

The CNMI Emergency Management Office reiterated its small craft and high surf advisories yesterday, saying these advisories will remain in effect until 4pm today, Thursday.

Fresh trade winds with occasional strong gusts will gradually diminish to moderate by Friday. Combined seas of 9 to 11 feet are expected through Thursday then fall to 7 to 8 feet by this weekend. The combination of north swell and trade-wind swell will maintain high surf across the Marianas for another day.

Seas of 10 feet or greater and frequent gusts of 22 knots or more are expected to produce conditions hazardous to operators of small craft. Winds of 15 to 20 knots with occasional gusts to 25 knots will continue into Thursday. Combined seas of 9 to 11 feet will persist through Thursday morning before subsiding to between 8 and

waste of time, considering that it was not attended by the two individuals that opposed the project site and that the Zoning Office failed to solicit comments from DCCA.

Additionally, Blanco said, the further delay caused by the second public hearing could have discouraged the investor.

Legal counsel Kate Fuller, however, pointed out that regulatory processes are expected not only on Saipan but throughout the world, particularly for an investor who wants to initiate any project development.

Fuller said the first public hearing should not have gone as "ugly" as it did by having a policy in place.

She added that there should also be a policy that would require attendees of zoning public hearings to speak in English, a language that people can generally understand.

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*H*oly Spirit Thou who makes me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with you and my loved ones in your perpetual glory. AMEN.

Say this prayer for three days without mentioning the favor you are asking for. After the third day, the wish will be granted no matter how difficult it may be. Promise to publish this prayer as soon as your favor has been granted. (EMO)

lyn Gatus Akigami.

At that time, Camacho said, Crisostomo was still on probation for a prior criminal conviction and among the conditions of his probation is a prohibition from possession of alcohol and controlled substances.

The prosecution called six witnesses, including Namauleg, who was in the car with Crisostomo when they were arrested. The defense called four witnesses.



### PACIFICA LOYALTY

Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. staffer Keomi Palacios presents a partnership and appreciation award to Handbags, etc. president Eleanor Cabrera for her shop's ongoing participation in Pacifica's loyalty discount program—Pacifica Loyalty. Handbags, etc. joined Pacifica's loyalty program back in early 2012 and offers a 50-percent discount off Envirosox products after a \$25 purchase. Pacifica Loyalty is open to all businesses that wish to offer discounts and other benefits to Pacifica clients. Details about this program is available online at [www.pacificains.com/pacificaloyalty](http://www.pacificains.com/pacificaloyalty).

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# Request to reduce, eliminate Tinian airport's PFC nixed

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has denied the request of the Tinian municipality to reduce or eliminate altogether the passenger facility charge being collected from travelers to and from the island.

In a letter to Tinian Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz, CPA executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero said the collection of passenger facility charges, or PFC, is a federal program created by law that the CPA cannot reduce



Guerrero

The Tinian mayor had requested that this charge be reduced or eliminated, describing them as counter-productive to efforts to bring tourists to the islands and a stumbling block to economic development opportunities.

If commuter passengers are going to be charged, then the funds should be used to upgrade the terminals, Dela Cruz said.

But according to Deleon Guerrero, FAA has already provided funding for the design of the terminal project and the agency is now waiting for additional funding for the construction portion.

According to him, PFC revenues will be used as a matching fund for the airport improvement program grant that will be used to renovate the commuter terminal.

Any federally funded work at the Tinian airport will also use PFC revenues to secure the matching portion of the grant requirements, which in the end benefits the island, he added.

Deleon Guerrero described the Tinian terminal renovation as a "high priority" project for both CPA and Capital Improvement Project office.

Deleon Guerrero explained that funding for the project only became available in 2010 when the Tinian delegation allocated additional monies to complete the terminal. He said that during the design phase, structural issues were discovered that needed to be addressed.

"CPA separated the bids to ensure that work on the arrival terminal proceeds while the structural assessment and retrofit-

ting design work continued on the departure terminal. Unfortunately, as times are hard and everyone is seeking employment, the latest award was protested. CPA is now working with CIP to re-advertise the Phase 1 project in January. If bids are received and tabulated without delay, then we will push

for award by February 2013," he explained.

Flaws discovered in the project design prompted CPA to sue the designer, Leo A. Daly Company. Settlement negotiations are ongoing.

Until this lawsuit is settled, Deleon Guerrero said that renovation

of the departure terminal cannot proceed as there are structural issues and CPA will not be held liable for any injuries or damage that may occur.

Deleon Guerrero flew to the U.S. yesterday to pursue the settlement negotiation with Leo Daly.

"We are well aware of the amount of money the Tinian delegation, CPA, and the FAA has spent on the Tinian airport and we are working as quickly as possible to get this airport in a condition where it can accommodate direct flights from abroad," he said.

## Creation of hospice care program in NMI nears reality

By CLARISSA V. DAVID  
clarissa\_david@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The CNMI is just a step away from setting up a hospice program on the islands, with two private home care providers awaiting the approval of their certification to offer this service.

Commonwealth Cancer Association board president David Rosario announced Tuesday that Marianas Health, LLC and Marianas Visiting Nurses are "really interested" to get the hospice program up and running.

"They're waiting for the license and they're almost there," Rosario said in an interview after Joeten Charitable Foundation executives presented their donation for CCA's signature event, the Marianas March Against Cancer.

Lauri Ogumoro, CCA board vice president, said that foundation president Frances T. Demapan was instrumental in pushing for the creation of a hospice program in the Commonwealth.

Demapan's husband, former chief justice Miguel S. Damapan, had undergone surgeries for colon cancer and passed away on June 30, 2012. He was 59.

Ogumoro said that CCA's role is to support the development of hospice care for the community. The group worked hard to organize last year a series of forums

Commonwealth Cancer Association board president David Rosario, left, talks about hospice care in the CNMI as CCA program manager Juan L. Babauta looks on during Tuesday's presentation of the donation of Joeten Charitable Foundation to support of CCA's annual signature fundraising event, Marianas March Against Cancer.

that would give hospice proponents a "holistic approach" in setting up the program by gathering experts such as the owner of a successful hospice program in Guam, medical providers, lawmakers, and spiritual leaders who could share their perspectives and insights.

"The CNMI community has beautiful cultural practices to support death and dying. But there's still a lot of fear among family members when they're caring for someone in their home. Part of the hospice is to help the family understand the whole process of dying," Ogumoro told *Saipan Tribune*.

Tuesday's announcement

was confirmed separately by representatives of Marianas Visiting Nurses and Marianas Health, LLC.

Maureen Sebaniol, Marianas Health director of quality assurance, said yesterday that their company is already Medicare-certified for homecare. However, they would need a separate certification specific for hospice, for which they applied last November.

According to Sebaniol, hospice care involves more than what they offer in home care since it also includes pastoral services and more intense social work, among others.

She explained that a certifi-

cation would mean that Medicare and Medicaid would pay for home care services "so that families don't have to add that to what they're dealing with."

Sebaniol pointed out that having a hospice program in the Commonwealth would allow those who are terminally ill to have "better pain control."

She said that many dying patients across the nation prefer to die at home but end up being taken to hospitals because their family members don't know what to do with the pain that their dying loved one goes through.

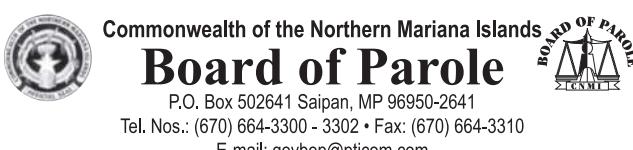
"Nobody educated them what to expect," said Sebaniol. "Nothing's harder to endure than seeing somebody you love suffer. One of the best things about hospice is being able to have a dignified death at home, on that person's terms, and have it as pain-free as possible."

Sebaniol disclosed that the issue of hospice is "something we feel passionate about" as many of the patients they have for home care, both now and in the past, could fall into hospice care "but we can't offer ourselves as hospice service yet."

"With a hospice program, there would be more resources to be able to offer to patients and their families so that they can have as much control of their end of life as possible," she added.



CLARISSA V. DAVID



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
**Board of Parole**

P.O. Box 502641 Saipan, MP 96950-2641  
Tel. Nos.: (670) 664-3300 - 3302 • Fax: (670) 664-3310  
E-mail: govbp@pticom.com

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Rescission Hearing

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofsneider, through the CNMI Board of Parole, and pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992", Notice is hereby given that a **Rescission Hearing** is scheduled for **March 8, 2013, (Friday) at 10:00 a.m.**, and if need be to continue on **March 11, 2013, (Monday) at 9:30 A.M.** at the CNMI Board of Parole Office, Capitol Hill Road, Building Number 1216, Saipan.

The following individual(s) will appear before the Hearing Examiner:

**A. Parole**  
1. DIAZ, David Tanaka

Cr. Cs. No.: 01-0381E  
BOP No.: 10-005

If you have any question or information, please call the Parole Office at telephone number 664-3300 or 3302.

/s/ Rose Ada Hocog  
Hearing Examiner

Date: 2/26/2013

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**INVITATION FOR BIDS**  
This ad is paid by NMHC with HUD Funds.  
NMHC IFB 2013-001

**Building Maintenance of NMHC's Housing Units in Saipan**

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, are hereby giving notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids for the Building Maintenance of NMHC's Housing Units in Saipan.

Interested individuals or firms may pick up a copy of the Project Package beginning Friday, February 8, 2013, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI holidays.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the NMHC Central Office on **Friday, February 15, 2013 at 10:30 a.m.**, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan. Bidders will have the opportunity to tour the housing subdivisions and inspect several housing units owned by NMHC that will be covered under the proposed contract. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder. Inquiries regarding this solicitation must be addressed in writing to the NMHC Corporate Director at P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than 9:00 a.m., Monday, February 18, 2013.

Sealed bids must be marked **NMHC-IFB 2013-001**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, Marianas Islands 96950, no later than **10:30 a.m., local time, Friday, March 1, 2013**. Bids must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:30 a.m., local time, Friday, March 1, 2013**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to [procurement@pticom.com](mailto:procurement@pticom.com). For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **Friday, March 8, 2013**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at **10:30 a.m., local time, Friday, March 8, 2013**. However, if no notice of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m., local time on Friday, March 1, 2013**.

All labor on this project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate of \$5.55 per hour which took effect on October 1, 2012 as established by Federal law including subsequent increases of \$5.50 per hour as announced by the U.S. Department of Labor and/or the CNMI Department of Labor, whichever is higher.

NMHC hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that, in any contacts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, small, minority businesses and women's business enterprises will be afforded equal opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, sex, disabilities or national origin.

This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires the successful bidder to the "maximum extent feasible", take affirmative steps to provide training, contracting and employment opportunities and help ensure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents in Saipan.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC.

NMHC reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in the bids if determined to be in its best interest. All bids received shall become the property of the Commonwealth Government.

/s/ JESSE S. PALACIOS  
Corporate Director

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLON  
Director, Procurement & Supply



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# IGIA holds annual meeting

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**—Governors and congressional representatives from each of the U.S. Insular Areas gathered in Washington this week to attend their annual meeting with senior-level federal officials to discuss issues of importance to American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The 2013 Senior Plenary Session of the Interagency Group on Insular Areas, hosted by the Department of the Interior, was co-chaired by White House Director of Intergovernmental Affairs David Agnew and Deputy Secretary of the Interior David J. Hayes. The island governors were also in Washington to attend the annual National Governors' Conference, the Western Governors Breakfast, and U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meetings, all of which preceded the IGIA Plenary Session.

Various governors and congressional representatives from the U.S. Insular Areas provided remarks and statements unique to their island and highlighted useful ideas and goals for their constituencies that developed from the sessions at this year's annual meeting.

In addition, the co-chairs provided important remarks at the annual meeting.

"This annual meeting and its important workshops underscore the collaborative progress we are making to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of our people in American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico," said Hayes. "It is my hope that folks who have traveled thousands of miles to be here this week will work to identify other areas and initiatives that we can employ to do an even better job moving

forward to ensure that resources can be found to advance the priorities of these Insular Areas."

"It was a pleasure meeting with the governors and the representatives at this IGIA where we held serious conversations about addressing the issues facing the U.S. Insular Areas," said Eileen Sobeck, the acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas.

"We were especially pleased to welcome newly elected Governor Moliga of American Samoa. This year we are placing special focus on following-up with our sister federal agencies, the governors and the delegates to Congress throughout the year to continue

moving forward on the issues."

"IGIA provides a great opportunity for agencies and the White



Agnew

Doms, Undersecretary for Economic Affairs

■ **Health and Human Services – Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services:** CMS Hospital Surveys – Keeping in Good Standing by Thomas Hamilton, Director, Survey and Certification, Clinical Standards and Quality

■ **USDA – Rural Development:** Leveraging USDA Programs to Advance Infrastructure & Development Projects by Jessica Zufolo, Deputy Administrator, and Chris Kanazawa, State Director, Hawaii and Western Pacific

■ **National Science Foundation – Education and Human Resources:** Partnering with the National Science Foundation to Support Policy Initiatives by John Cruickshank, Senior Pro-

gram Analyst, Directorate for Education and Human Resources

■ **Homeland Security**

– **Federal Emergency Management Agency:** Sharing Experiences Learned from Sandy and Others To Help the Territories by Michael Byrne, Federal Coordinating Officer for Sandy, National Incident Management Assistance Team Leader, FEMA

■ **USDA - National Institute of Food and Agriculture:** NIFA Food and Agricultural Sciences Programs in the Insular Areas by Dr. Saleia Afele-Fa'amuli, National Program Leader

An important compilation shared at the meeting was the IGIA briefing book, which contains contributions from all participating federal agencies and highlights their respective work and programs in the territories and freely associated states. (**DOI**)

## » Plenary session of island leaders and federal officials held at Interior



Hayes

cesses and the White House Director of Intergovernmental Affairs David Agnew and Deputy Secretary of the Interior David J. Hayes. The island governors were also in Washington to attend the annual National Governors' Conference, the Western Governors Breakfast, and U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meetings, all of which preceded the IGIA Plenary Session.

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NEW MPLT TRUSTEE

Gov. Eloy S. Inos administers the oath of office for Martin B. Ada, the newest trustee for the Marianas Public Land Trust, in a brief ceremony at the Office of the Governor yesterday. Also in photo are MPLT board chair Pedro Deleon Guerrero and board trustees Peter Cruz and Melchor Mendiola.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



## COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Office of the Secretary

Caller Box 10007, Saipan, M.P. 96950 • Tel. 664-2576 • Fax. 664-2570

## CHILD CARE PROGRAM OPENS FOR NEW APPLICANTS

To: All parents and/or Legal Guardians:

The Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Child Care Program will be doing pre-eligibility assessments for new applicants. The program will open to a maximum of 200 children or slots only (CNMI wide). For this opening, parents who are full time students with zero income will be given priority. Parents attending school, training or working will be accommodated. Once all slots have been taken, pre-eligibility assessments will cease and applications will no longer be provided.

Pre-eligibility assessments will be done at the following locations, date, and time.

Location	Date	Time	Submission Dates and Time	Final Date to Submit Application
Mt. Carmel Cathedral Social Hall	Friday, March 15, 2013	1:30p.m. to 6:00p.m.	March 22 to April 10 1:00p.m. to 4:00p.m.	April 10 at 4:00p.m.
Rota	Please call CCDF Office for information			
Tinian	Please call CCDF Office for information			
<b>For Full Time Students with Zero Income</b> CCDF Office Capitol Hill, Saipan	Every Friday Only	10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	On-going	On-going

Parents and/or legal guardians who are interested in applying for the program must go through the pre-eligibility process and will need to bring the following:

**A. For Full Time Students or in Training with Zero Income:**

- School Documents such as acceptance letter and/or class schedule
- Must be enrolled full time (12 credits)
- If attending ABE must provide letter from ABE Office indicating that the student is considered full time
- In Training: must have documents indicating a minimum of 60 training hours bi-weekly

**B. For Full Time students with income:**

- All requirements under letter A plus
- Three (3) latest check stubs showing: Applicant's full name, hours worked (a minimum 60 hours bi-weekly), hourly rate, and gross monthly earnings for both parents
- Most recent 1040 Tax for the year 2011 for both parents

**C. For working parents:**

- Three (3) latest check stubs showing: Applicant's full name, hours worked (a minimum 60 hours bi-weekly), hourly rate, and gross monthly earnings for both parents
- Most recent 1040 Tax for the year 2011 for both parents

Interested applicants must bring the above documents to be entertained for pre-eligibility.

Completed applications along with the required documents should be forwarded to the Child Care Program Office Building No. 1347 Ascension Court Capitol Hill. Incomplete applications will not be accepted. Applications will not be accepted on the following dates due to Monthly Invoice submission: April 2, 3, and 4.

For questions regarding the Child Care Program please call at 664-2575/664-2546/664-2576.

**Full Requirements:**

Applicant of Household

1. Three (3) latest check stubs each parent or legal guardian (if legal guardian, must provide copy of Court Documents)
  - a. Applicant's Full Name
  - b. Hours worked (minimum of 60 hours bi-weekly)
  - c. Hourly Rate
  - d. Gross Monthly Earnings
2. A copy of Identification Card for each parent or guardian
  - a. Passport
  - b. CNMI Driver's License
  - c. Mayor's ID
  - d. CW 1, Employment Authorization Document (EAD), Notice of Completed Biometrics (if applicable)
3. A copy of your most recent 1040 Tax for the year 2011 (each parent or guardian)
4. Residency: Provide one of the following:
  - a. House Rental/ Mortgage
  - b. Utility Receipt
  - c. Telephone Receipt
  - d. CW 1, EAD, Notice of Completed Biometrics (if applicable)
5. Employment verification (CCDF prescribed form)
6. Training/Education Verification
  - a. Letter of Acceptance from Institution
  - b. Full time student
    - i. Twelve (12) Credit Units
    - ii. Letter from ABE indicating full time status
7. Notarized Affidavit indicating (CCDF Form)
  - a. Parent is single
  - b. Child Support Statement
8. Status: CW1, EAD, Notice of Completed Biometrics documentation (if applicable)

Child/Children Household member:

1. A copy of Birth Certificate for each child (Child must be a US citizen or a qualified alien, as defined in Personal Responsibility Work Opportunity Act (PRWORA))
2. A copy of US Passport
3. A copy of Social Security Card

### CNMI Child Care Program Income Eligibility

Family Size	Income Level
1	\$931.00
2	\$1261.00
3	\$1591.00
4	\$1921.00
5	\$2251.00
6	\$2581.00
7	\$2911.00
8	For families with more than 7 persons, add \$330.00 to each additional family member

Approved for distribution: /s/ Melvin L.O. Faisao  
DCCA Secretary

Date: February 07, 2013

Funding from the Office of Child Care, US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families

## Inos is guest speaker at Chamber meeting

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will host its monthly general membership luncheon meeting at the Saipan World Resort on Wednesday, March 6, 2013. Luncheon begins at 11:30am and

the meeting commences at noon. Gov. Eloy S. Inos has accepted the Chamber's request to speak to the business community and will be the guest speaker. In general, Inos will

## MIFICPA to host tax seminar on Sat.

The Marianas Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants, MIFICPA, will be hosting a tax seminar dubbed "Tax Updates 2013" with focus on FICA tax issues, types of corporations, changes in tax laws, income within and without, income distribution-treatment, trust discussion, and others.

The seminar will be conducted by David J. Burger, CPA and director for Burger & Comer, PC Certified Public Accountants. It is scheduled on March 2, 2013, Saturday, from 1pm to 5pm at the Charley's Cabaret of Pacific Islands Club. Registration starts at 12:30pm. (*Mificpa*)

## NRCS accepting applications for Conservation Innovation Grants

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service will provide up to \$25 million in grants to help develop and demonstrate cutting-edge ideas to improve conservation on private lands.

Conservation Innovation Grants are available for state and local governments, federally recognized Indian tribes, non-governmental and educational organizations, private businesses, and individuals, with applications due Friday, March 22, 2013.

Of particular interest are applications for innovative demonstration partnerships on energy conservation, nutrient management, soil health, wildlife habitat and adaptive management.

"These grants are critical for developing and demonstrating out-of-the-box ideas for conservation on America's private lands and strengthening rural communities," said NRCS director Angel Figueroa. "They inspire creative problem-solving that boosts the production of our farmers and ranchers and

### ON THE NET

For more information: [go.usa.gov/4Kvx](http://go.usa.gov/4Kvx)  
To apply electronically: [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov)  
Local NRCS office: [www.pia.nrcc.usda.gov](http://www.pia.nrcc.usda.gov)

ultimately improves our water, air and soil."

NRCS has offered this grant program since 2004, investing in ways to demonstrate and transfer efficient and environmentally friendly farming and ranching.

In the past eight years, the grants have helped develop trading markets for water quality

and have shown precise ways to farm that use fertilizer, water and energy more efficiently.

The grants are funded through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and are awarded through a competitive process. At least 50 percent of the total cost of CIG projects must come from non-federal matching funds, including cash and in-kind contributions provided by the grant recipient.

For more on this grant opportunity, visit <http://go.usa.gov/4Kvx>. To apply electronically, visit <http://www.grants.gov> or contact a local NRCS office, [www.pia.nrcc.usda.gov](http://www.pia.nrcc.usda.gov). (*USDA*)

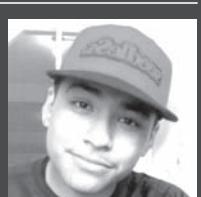
## BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Happy birthday shoutout to DJ Meyers! Today is your special day, today you turn 10! We wish you all the very best. May you be blessed abundantly today, tomorrow, and all the days to come! May you have an awesome day filled with love and lots of fun! Happy birthday son! We love you to the moon and back! Greetings come from Mom, Dad, Josh, Nikki, Claude, Regino III, and Chris.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday shoutout to Jordan Jay Manglona Mesa! Our son, it is never what you achieve that matters, but how much you give in that does. Because in the end, your success only depends on you. May you touch all your dreams. And always remember you have always made us proud. Our blessings and support are always with you! We wish you a very happy birthday. We love you, son. Greetings coming out from Dad, Mom, and the family.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

be discussing current economic challenges and how the administration intends to address them. He will also discuss, among other issues, the financial outlook of the CNMI government, the idea of extending the transition period for CW workers, and the issue of minimum wage.

The Northern Marianas College will also provide valuable

information about the newly established relationship between NMC and the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education.

Luncheon is \$20 for Chamber members, and \$30 for guests and the public. Call the Chamber office at 233-7150 for reservations, or contact coordinator@saipanchamber.com for further information. (*SCC*)

## Tinian swearing-in for Hofsneider

The Offices of the Governor & Lieutenant Governor, together with the Office of the Mayor of Tinian & Aguijan, would like to invite the general public to a swearing-in ceremony for Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofsneider on Tuesday, March 5, 2013, at the Antonio M. Borja Ampitheater, Tinian.

The ceremony will begin at 10am, followed by a dinner reception at 6pm, at Natibu Park, Tinian. An inaugural Mass will also be held for Hofsneider at the San Jose Parish, Tinian, at 8am. (*PR*)

## USDA settles with women farmers, ranchers who claim discrimination

WASHINGTON—Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack is reminding Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who allege discrimination by the USDA in past decades that there are fewer than 30 days remaining in the filing period closing March 25, 2013.

"Hispanic and women farmers who believe they have faced discriminatory practices in the past from the USDA have fewer than 30 days left to file a claim in order to have a chance to receive a cash payment or loan forgiveness," said Secretary Vilsack. "USDA urges potential claimants to contact the Claims Administrator for information and mail their claim packages on or before March 25, 2013."

The process offers a voluntary alternative to litigation for each Hispanic or female farmer and rancher who can prove that USDA denied his or her application for loan or loan servicing assistance for discriminatory reasons for certain time periods between 1981 and 2000.

As announced in February 2011, the voluntary claims process will make available at least \$1.33 billion for cash awards and tax relief payments, plus up to \$160 million in farm debt relief, to eligible Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers. There are no filing fees to participate in the program.

The department will continue reaching out to potential Hispanic and female claimants around the country to get the word out to individuals who may be eligible for this program so they have the opportunity to participate.

Call center representatives can be reached at 1-888-508-4429. Claimants may register for a claims package (by call-

ing the number or visiting the website) or may download the forms from the website. All those interested in learning

more or receiving information about the claims process and claims packages are encouraged to attend meetings in your communities about the claims process and contact the website at any time or the call center telephone number Monday through Friday 9am to 8pm Eastern Time.

Independent legal services companies will administer the claims process and adjudicate the claims. Although there are no filing fees to participate and a lawyer is not required to participate in the

claims process, persons seeking legal advice may contact a lawyer or other legal services provider.

Under Vilsack's leadership, USDA has instituted a comprehensive plan to strengthen the department as a model service provider and to ensure that every farmer and rancher is treated equally and fairly as part of "a new era of civil rights" at USDA. In February 2010, the Secretary announced the Pigford II settlement with African-American farmers, and in October 2010, he announced the Keepseagle settlement with Native American farmers. Both of those settlements have since received court approval.

Unlike the cases brought by African American and Native American farmers, the cases filed by Hispanic and women farmers over a decade ago were not certified as class actions. The claims process provides a voluntary alternative to continuing litigation for Hispanic and female farmers and ranchers who want to use it. (*USDA*)

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Feb. 28, 2004

### Promoted law enforcers to get salary hikes

Police commissioner Edward Camacho disclosed Friday that salary increases to promoted officials will soon begin at the Department of Public Safety, as soon as technicalities are worked out. Camacho said the police leadership is now on the last leg of negotiations for the implementation of the salary increase, adding that the first batch of salary increases would be implemented at the Corrections Division. "There are correctional officers who would be promoted in days to come and they would be the first to get the corresponding salary increase. That would spearhead the department-wide salary increase," said Camacho in an interview.

### LB analyzing budget for more personnel

Despite a joint bid by the Senate and House leaderships to lift the full-time employee slots of the Legislative Bureau from 35 to 45, bureau executive director Walter Macaranas said Thursday that there is "no definite hirings at this point" pending his review of the office's budget. He confirmed, though, that the leaderships have approved the hiring of two more legal counsels for the Senate. Also, the recommendation to extend the bureau's services to delegations of each senatorial district has yet to be discussed and finalized, Macaranas added. House Vice Speaker Timothy Villagomez, in a separate interview, said the House leadership supports the additional FTE for the bureau provided these are professional positions.

Feb. 28, 2005

### CNMI gets over \$5M for Compact Impact

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will receive a grant in the amount of \$5,171,914 from the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs to reimburse the islands for the social costs of migration from the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau and the Marshall Islands. "These funds will help the CNMI to offset the costs that it has incurred to provide health care, education and other social services to those who are permitted to migrate to the CNMI under the Compacts of Free Association," said Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior David B. Cohen. "The funds can be used for most public services that have been impacted by the need to serve migrants, and can be used for infrastructure as well."

### PSS admits shortcomings in mathematics

The recent MATHCOUNTS competition exposed that the Public School System needs to do more to improve its mathematics curriculum in the Commonwealth, which has led to students having low-level competency on the subject. Education associate commissioner David M. Borja said the criticisms are warranted and are not only true for the CNMI but is also a correct assumption to the teaching of mathematics across the United States. "It was also determined through a test about math [in other states in the mainland]," he said. Borja said the test showed that students in America falls behind in the subject of math and science compared to students from a lot of Asian countries.

Feb. 28, 2006

### MVA: We need more funding, not cuts

Reducing the already meager budget of the Marianas Visitors Authority is not an option—especially if the administration aims to raise tourist arrivals in the CNMI to 1 million in 2008, according to the MVA board. During a meeting yesterday morning, MVA officials said that, instead of reducing its funds, the government should actually give the agency a bigger budget. Board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce said it is about time for the government to look at MVA funding as "investments, not spending." MVA board member appointee Jerry Tan, president of Tan Holdings Corp., said that MVA's advertising budget should never be sacrificed.

### MVA didn't get promised \$1M

The Marianas Visitors Authority said yesterday that it failed to get the promised \$1 million for advertising from the previous administration. "We never received it," said MVA board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce and MVA acting managing director Tess Castro during a meeting Monday. As a result, the MVA said it had to use its already depleted budget for needed programs. It cited that it had to commit \$250,000 of its budget for the launching and development of the Osaka destination. This happened when Northwest Airlines added a new flight from Osaka when Japan Airlines pulled out from the CNMI last October.

# Island Snapshots



## CAREER FAIR

Two senior students talk with representatives of Duty Free Shoppers during Tuesday's Public School System Cooperative Education Career Fair at Hyatt Regency Saipan.

MONETH G. DEPOSA



Staff of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Bernice Ravell and Manny Ogarto, are all smiles as they wait for students during Tuesday's PSS Career Fair held at Hyatt Regency Saipan.

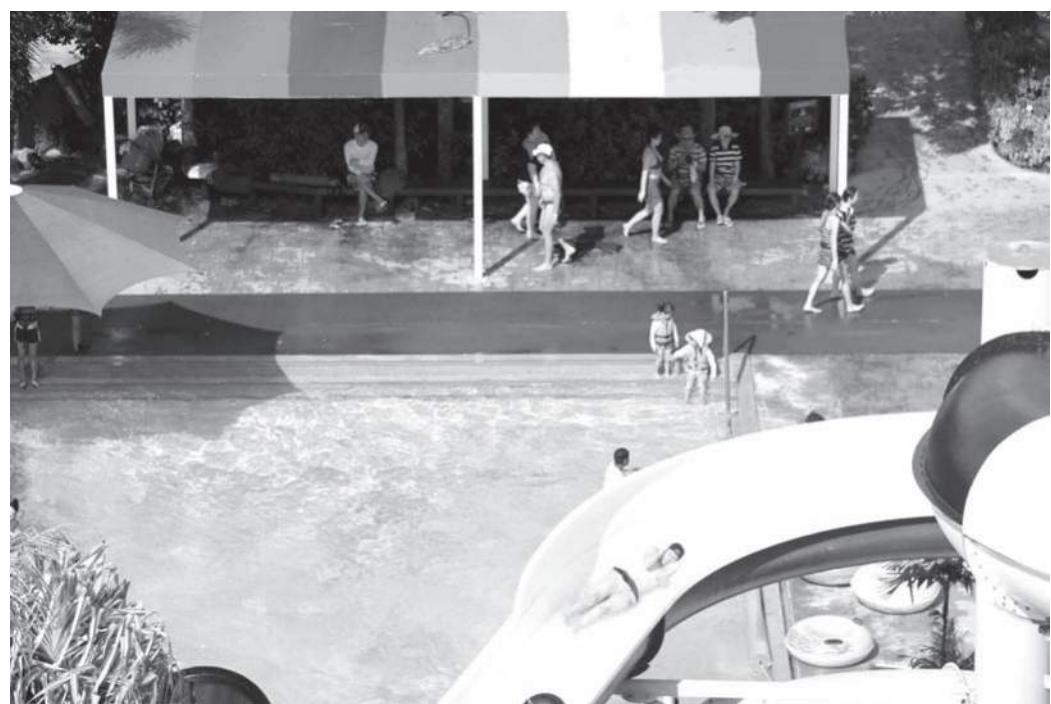
MONETH G. DEPOSA



## SESSION RECESS

Rep. Mario Taitano (IR-Saipan), left, confers with Board of Education chair Herman T. Guerrero, right, while Rep. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan), Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan) and House legal counsel Joe Taijeron look on during a short recess on Tuesday afternoon.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



## FUN IN THE SUN

Tourists spend their vacation at Saipan World Resort's water park, Wave Jungle, in Susupe on Saturday. Tourist arrivals to the CNMI went up by 3 percent to 39,391 in January compared to the same month last year, the Marianas Visitors Authority said yesterday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

## HEALTH EXPO

Tinian residents flock to the public gymnasium for the 2nd Health Expo last Feb. 24. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



A Hardt Eye Clinic staffer checks the vision of a female Tinian resident at the 2nd Health Expo last Feb. 24. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Among the services provided during the 2nd Health Expo on Tinian on Feb. 24 were blood sugar and blood pressure screenings as well as counseling.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Dr. Kenneth Piereson of the Saipan Seventh-day Adventist Clinic and another volunteer smile for the camera before attending to one of the patients who availed the dental services during the 2nd Health Expo on Tinian on Feb. 24.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

# Opinion

## Saipan Tribune

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## EDITORIAL

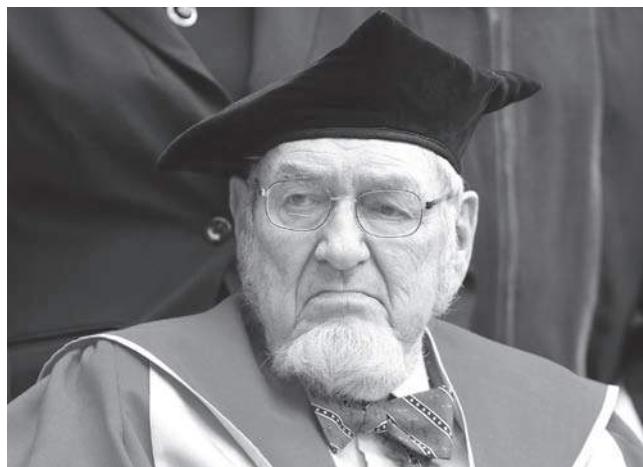
### C. Everett Koop elevated public health above politics

**T**hirty years ago, long before the tired phrase "political correctness" had become the most overworked cliché of the culture wars, a physician named Koop was face to face with it.

His ultimate refusal to yield to it remains one of the all-time great triumphs of public health.

C. Everett Koop was President Ronald Reagan's choice for U.S. surgeon general in 1981, and served in that post through Reagan's two terms and into President George H.W. Bush's administration. In that time, he raised the profile of that office to a prominence it had seldom if ever known before. In so doing, he sustained political and cultural battle scars, and earned every one of them.

Koop, who died Monday at 96, was a complex man whose public career might on the surface seem contradictory, but perhaps shouldn't. His nomination was opposed by liberals; his performance in office was condemned by conservatives. A lifelong opponent of abortion, he would not issue a White



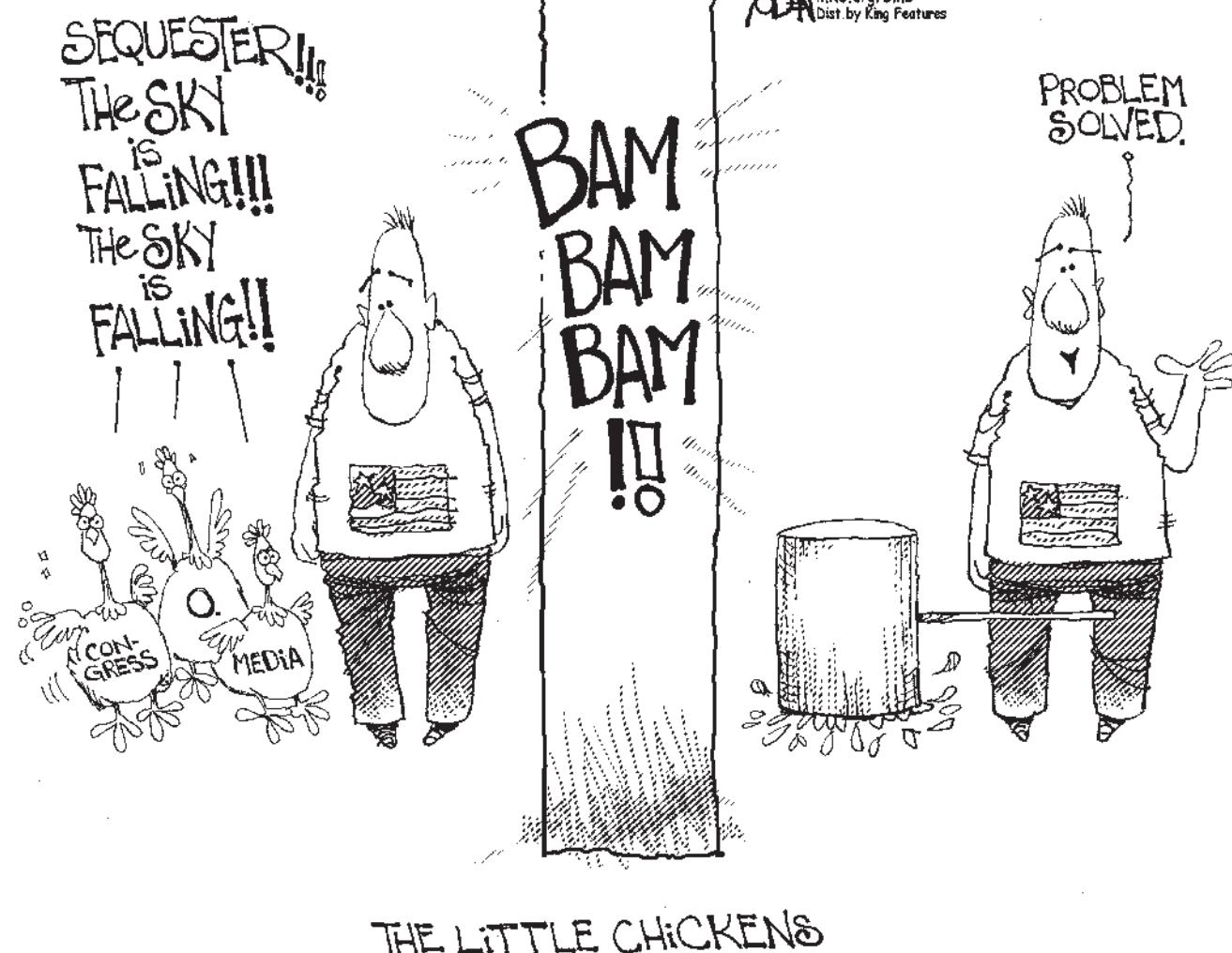
Koop

House report that said abortion was psychologically harmful to women because he said the science wasn't there to support it. A former pipe smoker, he became the nation's foremost foe of tobacco. (Smoking rates declined from 38 percent to 27 percent during his tenure in office.) A devout Presbyterian who sometimes prayed at patients' bedsides, he refused to use his office or his bully pulpit for ideological purposes.

Most significantly, Koop was a social and political conservative who believed homosexuality and non-marital sex immoral—but who, when faced with the public health threat of AIDS, set a tone of unprecedented clinical frankness in how to arrest its spread. He advocated practical, explicit sex education and more widespread use of condoms; indeed, C. Everett Koop is almost singlehandedly responsible for moving the word "condom" out of the realm of snickers and stigma, and into the realm of public policy.

That frankness drew fierce cultural and political fire (social activist Phyllis Schlafly publicly condemned Koop for advocating "sodomy"), and put pressure on the president to fire or muzzle his surgeon general—neither of which Reagan would do.

See KOOP on Next Page



## The left's science deniers

**I**f this column appeared under the headline, "Massive defeat for the anti-science forces," you would naturally assume I'm talking about some kind of setback for conservative Republicans, right? And you would be completely wrong.

The losers in this case are the luddite shock troops of progressivism like Greenpeace. And the winners are the children of the Philippines, thousands of whom will not go blind or die because the anti-science wing of modern liberalism finally is getting some pushback.

The Filipino government has finally approved the planting of genetically modified rice that contains vitamin A. "Golden rice," as the stuff is called, probably won't make a splash in the United States, but in the Third World, it will be a godsend. Between a quarter-million and a half-million children go blind each year from vitamin A deficiency, the United Nations says, and half of them die within 12 months. Some studies put the figure even higher.

As many as 300 million of the people at high risk for vitamin A deficiency live in countries where the staple food is rice. For them, golden rice will provide a quick, easy and cheap fix: eating just two ounces a day will provide 60 percent of the recommended daily dose of Vitamin A.

But that hasn't stopped Greenpeace and other luddite-left activists from fighting a scorched-earth war to stop golden rice. For more than a dozen years—or, if you prefer to keep score in the lives of children, 8 million dead—they've kept golden rice off the market by calling it Frankenfood and insisting that it will wreck the environment and spread dependence on Western capitalism.

What role does science play in the left-wing opposition to golden rice and other genetically modified crops? None. Study after study has shown no detectable deleterious effects on human health from genetically altered foods. And two studies published in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition have shown that golden rice is an even better vehicle for delivery of vitamin A than spinach, the wonder vegetable.

Every time some lone Republican nut from Hooterville makes a jackass statement about rape or evolution, it's immediately ascribed as a doctrinal belief of the entire GOP and conservatives in general. But liberal resistance to science is far more organized, far more destructive and far less covered in the media:

■ Millions of American parents refused to have their children vaccinated for diseases like whooping cough and measles after Robert F. Kennedy Jr. published an error-ridden tirade in Rolling Stone and the left-wing website Salon in 2005 linking vaccines to autism and other neurological disturbances.

Six years later, Salon retracted the article, yet many parents re-

By GLENN GARVIN

The Miami Herald



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main convinced of the linkage to this day—one of whom now sits in the White House. "We've seen just a skyrocketing autism rate," Barack Obama said during his 2008 campaign. "Some people are suspicious that it's connected to the vaccines. This person included." Obama's spurious worries about vaccines led to manufacturing changes that caused a shortage of flu vaccine in the winter of 2009.

■ Virtually no nuclear-power plants have been built in the United States during the past four decades, the result of continuous left-wing scare stories. Australian physician Helen Caldicott has become a folk hero—21 honorary degrees and a nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize—for her anti-nuke campaign, the centerpiece of which is that the explosion at the Soviet Union's Chernobyl nuclear reactor led to nearly a billion deaths and countless hideous birth defects.

Actual death toll, according the U.N.'s scientific committee on nuclear radiation: less than 100. Actual birth defects: zero. The U.S. National Academy of Sciences says that the chances of radiation-induced changes in human sperm and eggs are so low that it has never been detected in human beings, "even in thoroughly studied irradiated populations such as those of Hiroshima and Nagasaki." There may be good reasons for opposing nuclear power—mainly, that the industry is a bloated corporate welfare tick that cannot survive without massive government subsidy—but science isn't one of them, which is why a 2009 Pew Research Center survey showed 70 percent of scientists support it.

But scientific consensus, invoked like clockwork whenever lefty activists and their journalist friends talk about global warming, is mysteriously irrelevant when they're discussing nuclear power or genetically enhanced crops. In 2005, the International Council for Science—a coalition of 140 scientific organizations—reviewed more than 50 studies and declared flatly: "Currently available genetically modified foods are safe to eat."

There are a few million dead Third World kids who wish that somebody had listened.

## EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

## Democracy at risk—from West

**A**ny member of Congress who refuses to compromise on the budget sequester this week should be given this mandatory assignment: Read “Democracy in Retreat: The Revolt of the Middle Class and the Worldwide Decline of Representative Government.”

Author Joshua Kurlantzick examines the spate of retreating democracies over the last two decades and finds something startling. The middle classes—supposedly the bulwark of democracy worldwide—are often turning against it. As our governmental paralysis continues, the same thing could well happen here.

Two decades ago, Francis Fukuyama famously argued, in “The End of History and the Last Man,” that the world would inevitably evolve toward liberal democracy and market economics. Yet 2013 represents the seventh consecutive year that declines in freedom outweighed gains, according to the Freedom House index.

Kurlantzick offers keen insights into what has gone wrong.

After 1991, the Soviet economic model was discredited. Former communist states turned toward democracy, along with many developing countries. Yet too often they assumed that embracing democracy would confer instant wealth.

“It was a widely held belief in East and Central Europe, and in most emerging democracies,” says Kurlantzick, “that democracy would bring prosperity. When the first years brought slow growth, that was a real disillusionment.”

Absent a culture of democracy or strong leadership, many new democracies struggled; the high expectations of poorer citizens were shattered. But what accounts for the growing frustrations with democracy evinced by its supposed middle-class bulwark—in countries as diverse as Venezuela, Thailand, Egypt, and the Philippines?

Much of the problem can be ascribed to the Three C’s—chaos, corruption, and the crash.

Democracy can open the door to irresponsible populists such as

Venezuela’s Hugo Chavez, who appeal to the poor (and often wreck the economy). The middle class feels its well-being is threatened.

Moreover, when dictatorships fall in countries with no rule-of-law tradition, a political vacuum often breeds lawlessness and chaos. A prime example is Egypt, where much of the middle class, and many urban poor, now yearn for the stability they had under Hosni Mubarak, though they once rallied against him in Tahrir Square.

Corruption has also become associated with newly open societies. “Rising corruption can lead to popular alienation with democracy,” writes Kurlantzick. In autocracies, corruption is usually controlled at the center, but the collapse of such regimes provides much broader opportunities for graft.

One of many examples: In post-communist Russia, Boris Yeltsin’s fire sale of state-owned natural resources to private “oligarchs” convinced ordinary Russians that democracy equaled theft, and fueled the yearning for a new strongman.

Middle-class anger has also been stoked by the 2008 financial crash, which resulted in huge economic pain yet let most of the bankers who caused it off the hook.

Little wonder that much of the world began to question the validity of the Western liberal economic model. All the more so when the European Union can’t resolve its postcrash financial crises, and Washington can’t get its fiscal act together. As one State Department official quoted by Kurlantzick puts it: “How can we with a straight face be telling countries in Africa and the Middle East that they need to develop better systems for governing when we can’t even pass a budget?” Indeed.

With the Western model in decline, little wonder, too, that many Asian, African, and Latin American nations look with new interest at the Chinese model of undemocratic development, mixing capitalism with continued government control of key sectors in an authoritarian state.

However, let me stress this: Whatever the risks to U.S. interests

By TRUDY RUBIN

The Philadelphia Inquirer



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posed by the growing gravitational pull of China, the biggest threat to global democracy lies within the West itself.

If Western citizens lose faith in their own systems, new democracies are bound to do likewise. In Europe, postcrash austerity has aggravated job loss and impoverished many middle- and working-class citizens, especially in southern Europe. The post-World War II social contract that ended a century of European conflict is fraying. Right-wing fringe groups are attracting more of the vote.

Meantime, middle-class Americans feel threatened by rising inequality and permanent job loss—and their fear leads to disillusionment with government. Congress is paralyzed, with Republicans pressed by their hard-liners to reject any compromise on revenue and spending. Irresponsible fringe groups proliferate, fueled by billionaire backers. Conspiracy theories go viral on the Internet, like the one I just received, proclaiming: “Secret Obama plot to stay in power until 2020.”

America’s deep democratic roots and strong civic organizations remain a bulwark. Yet relentless right-wing efforts to demonize government undermine our democratic institutions. Washington’s meltdown convinces the world that our democracy can no longer deliver.

And when the world’s paramount democracy can’t function, why would developing countries want to follow our lead?

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Some thoughts on the planned rally and other CW issues

Let me start by thanking the guest worker leaders and their advocates for their tireless efforts on behalf of all legal nonresidents in the CNMI.

I read in the newspaper that there will be a rally on March 4, 2013, in front of Mr. Kilili’s office to “ask Mr. Kilili to introduce a bill” that would grant a pathway to citizenship and to make sure legal workers are included in the national immigration reform.

Here are my thoughts:

1) The front office of Mr. Kilili is private property. Did the organizer ask the owner’s permission to assemble on that property, which we all know is a business establishment? Is Mr. Kilili on island on that date?

2) Anybody can stage a rally anytime they want. But I don’t think that holding a rally to “speak and ask Mr. Kilili” is the most effective and smartest way right now. Why not ask for an appointment to sit down with him, have a dialogue with him? Mr. Kilili and his staff are very accommodating. I know it for a fact because we sit down with him in his office every time we have issues and concerns and

## KOOP

From Page 10

Koop’s service in the cause of public health didn’t end with his leaving public office. “I will use the written word, the spoken word and whatever I can in the electronic media to deliver health messages to this country as long as people will listen,” he said shortly after resigning his post. He chaired the National Safe Kids Campaign and served as a health care adviser to President Bill Clinton. He created an institute at Dartmouth, his undergraduate alma mater, for the teaching of medical values and ethics.

We often debate the lines between church and state. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop had the clinical integrity and moral courage to draw new lines between morality and medicine, without sacrificing his dedication to either.

he has been saying publicly that anyone is welcome to visit him.

3) During the forum last Feb. 17, 2014, with attorney Loida Nicolas Lewis, Mr. Kilili was asked to speak. He clearly stated that he is in the process of drafting a “language” for legal nonresidents in the CNMI to be included in the comprehensive immigration reform. Please bear in mind: He said “drafting,” not wrote, not introduced. He even promised he will do his best but cannot promise that it will pass! Of course, because he is not a magician! Any bill will be voted on before it becomes law. So while he is in the process of drafting the language, I do believe it is healthier to talk with him.

4) The Interior recommendation, the CNMI Senate recommendation, and H.R. 1466 are the fruits of the labor of *all* nonresidents in the CNMI. We have to be thankful to Interior, the CNMI Senate, and Mr. Kilili for recognizing our importance in the economy and community, though not every one of us agrees with the recommendations and/or bill. We still have the time to ask—not demand—for the changes that we want; to bargain and not be hardheaded; to influence, not to pressure.

There is nothing in writing that says legal nonresidents in the CNMI are “entitled” to any improved immigration status. But do legal nonresidents in CNMI deserve this? Yes of course! The proof is in the recommendations/bill stated above and drafting of language to be included in the comprehensive immigration reform.

5) The CNMI is in the process of healing and transition. Government officials are doing their best right now to transition our CNMI to a better one. Instead of staging a rally, why not just divert the time, effort, and energy to community services that will nourish our relationship with the community? Let us do our share in this transition and healing process.

6) When attorney Loida Nicolas Lewis advised legal foreign workers in the CNMI to “stand their ground” because hope is coming, urging us to be “very persistent” in petitioning Delegate Kilili to support his plan, she didn’t mean to be on the ground literally nor to stand in a ground for a rally. She meant to persistently, continuously pursue our plight. She even mentioned that we should “lobby”—not rally! And I beg to disagree with Rabby Syed that lobbying is not necessary anymore. If that is the case, Rabby, why keep going back to DC? Isn’t it because you said you will be lobbying for legal nonresident workers? What happened?

7) Some nonresident workers oppose extending the CW program. The gathered signature for this petition was only 1,100-plus. This is not even 10 percent of the numbers of CWs, so one can cite this as the stand of all CW holders on this issue.

I for one did not sign that petition. I am for extending the CW program if this will buy me time to stay here legally until such time that a more permanent status is given to us. I am for any form or shape of improved status if that is the only way I can stay here legally while

looking for another avenue on how to get a status that will lead to U.S. residency or U.S. citizenship.

8) There are members of the community who have been working silently for years now, using different approach and strategies to make sure our plight is heard, not only here in the CNMI but in the U.S. mainland. This is still such a long and difficult process. As Lewis mentioned, it took 15 years for DC lobbyist Eric Lachica to win the plight of Filipino veterans in the U.S. But of course, that doesn’t mean it’s okay with me to wait for 15 years before we finally get what we deserve.

If we want to be heard, I suggest let’s do it in a more direct manner where they can hear us clearly, where the whole community will benefit.

*Huwag natin unti-unting alisin ang simpatya nila na deserving tayo para dito. Bagkus, habang bukas ang puso nila para sa atin, maging bukas din sana ang kaisipan natin na pwede naman tayong makipag-ugnayan o makipagnegosasyon sa mas intelektwal na pamamaraan at maging handa tayo at bukas ang isipin na kahit saan pa man at ano pa man, hindi lahat ng gusto natin ay pwede nating makamtan.*

Malou H. Berueco  
As Gonno, Saipan

## Being a bully

This letter is addressed to Russ Mason regarding your letter to the editor titled “Wish granted.” I agree with most of what you said, especially when you named the players involved, with the exception of Brian Kendall.

I have no idea where you got your information but the only thing Brian Kendall contributed to the governor’s resignation was making an ass of himself by threatening to attack and kill the former governor in front of Dr. John Joyner, who, just happened to be Fitial’s senior policy adviser, and press secretary Angel Demapan. If I’m not mistaken, the weapon of choice was a steel bar or aluminum baseball bat.

Do you truly believe that his threats of bodily harm and murder had anything to do with Fitial’s resignation? If so, you’re as idiotic as he is and you deserve to spend a cell with him.

I’m curious to know what charges were brought against him and when the court date is so I can sit in the comfort of my wheelchair and watch while he tries to explain his actions because there was nothing democratic in his actions. That’s what you call being a “bully”! If you endorse bullying, then yes, share a cell.

Michael Geisinger  
Dandan, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.pr.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.pr.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 85° ▼ 75°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 85° ▼ 76°

## Micronesia

Guam and Rota Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▼ 76
Palau	Cloudy ▲ 85 ▼ 76
Yap	Partly Cloudy ▲ 87 ▼ 76
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy ▲ 86 ▼ 79
Pohnpei	Showers ▲ 86 ▼ 80
Kosrae	Showers ▲ 86 ▼ 80
Majuro	Showers ▲ 87 ▼ 80

## Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲ 77 ▼ 65
Beijing	Windy	▲ 43 ▼ 21
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 73 ▼ 68
Honolulu	Sunny	▲ 80 ▼ 69
London	Partly Cloudy	▲ 47 ▼ 34
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 73 ▼ 47
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲ 91 ▼ 76
Melbourne	Showers	▲ 67 ▼ 54
Miami	Showers	▲ 77 ▼ 61
New York	Rain	▲ 51 ▼ 38
Osaka	Sunny	▲ 57 ▼ 44
Paris	Cloudy	▲ 40 ▼ 34
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲ 58 ▼ 48
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲ 57 ▼ 41
Salem	Cloudy	▲ 56 ▼ 43
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 64 ▼ 47
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 54 ▼ 34
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲ 57 ▼ 45
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	▲ 58 ▼ 39

## Tides

Sunrise/Sunset			Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	6:35 AM	6:24 PM	Today	8:32 PM	7:52 AM
Friday	6:34 AM	6:25 PM	Friday	9:29 PM	8:37 AM
Saturday	6:34 AM	6:25 PM	Saturday	10:27 PM	9:24 AM
Sunday	6:33 AM	6:25 PM	Sunday	11:26 PM	10:14 AM
Monday	6:32 AM	6:25 PM	Monday		11:08 AM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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#### ■ TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### ■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

#### ■ CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

### REQUIREMENTS

#### For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

#### For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

### HOW TO SUBMIT

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To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

### POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEB. 5, 2013

### DEPARTURES

#### SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:40am	5:30am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
UA5074	11:10am	12:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily

### ARRIVALS

#### GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:05am	7:55am	Daily
UA5073	9:50am	10:40am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily
UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily

#### ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA5062	3:35am	4:10am	1, 3, 5
UA5038	10:55am	11:30am	6

#### SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL285	6:35am	9:15am	1, 5, 7
DL297	4:25pm	7:20pm	Daily

#### NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL286	7:40pm	12:15am+1	4, 6, 7
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily

#### SAIPAN-Osaka (KIX)

0Z119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
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#### OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

0Z120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
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#### SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

# Business

## US economy showing strength as spending cuts loom

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Even with automatic spending cuts looming, the outlook for the U.S. economy brightened a bit Tuesday after reports showed that Americans are more confident and are buying more new homes.

Home prices are also rising steadily, and banks are lending more. Such improvements suggest that the economy is resilient enough to withstand the deep government cuts that will kick in Friday.

That's especially encouraging because uncertainty over the federal budget could persist for months.

"The stars are lining up for stronger private sector growth this year," said Craig Alexander, chief economist at TD Bank.

Sales of new homes jumped nearly 16 percent in January to their highest level in 4 1/2 years, adding momentum to the housing recovery. Consumer confidence rose in February after three months of declines. And home prices increased in December from the same month in 2011 by the largest amount in more than six years.

The upbeat economic news contributed to a rally on Wall Street. The Dow Jones industrial average jumped more than 100 points.

Consumers still face numerous burdens. Among them is a sharp increase in gas prices. The national average for a gallon, \$3.78, has surged 44 cents



AP

In this Monday, Feb. 25, 2013, photo, Kathy Redden shops at Vidler's 5 & 10 store in East Aurora, N.Y. Americans' confidence in the economy rebounded in February, reversing three straight months of declines as shoppers began adjusting to a payroll tax hike last month.

in a month.

And Social Security taxes rose 2 percentage points beginning Jan. 1. This year, the increase will cost a typical household that earns \$50,000 about \$1,000. Income taxes for the highest-earning Americans also rose.

Both factors could reduce overall spending.

On Friday, about \$85 billion

## Obama rejects plan for more say in spending cuts

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—President Barack Obama brushed off a Republican plan Tuesday to give him flexibility to allocate \$85 billion in looming spending cuts, wanting no part of a deal that would force him to choose between the bad and the terrible.

Three days out and no closer to any agreement, both parties sought to saddle the other with the blame for the painful ramification of the across-the-board cuts set to kick in Friday. Obama accused Republicans of steadfastly refusing to compromise, while the top Senate Republican, Mitch McConnell, chided Obama's effort to "fan the flames of catastrophe."

WASHINGTON (AP)—Ben Bernanke sent a message Tuesday to Congress: The Federal Reserve's low-interest-rate policies are giving crucial support to an economy still burdened by high unemployment.

The Fed chairman acknowledged the risks of keeping rates low indefinitely. But he expressed confidence that such risks pose little threat now.

Delivering the Fed's semiannual monetary report to Con-

McConnell and other top Republicans were lining up behind a plan that wouldn't replace the cuts but would give Obama's agency heads, such as incoming Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, greater discretion in distributing the cuts. The idea is that money could be transferred from lower-priority accounts to others that fund air traffic control or meat inspection.

But Obama, appearing at a Virginia shipbuilding site that he said would sit idle should the cuts go through, rejected the idea, saying there's no smart way to cut such a large chunk from the budget over just seven months—the amount of time

left in the fiscal year.

"You don't want to have to choose between, 'let's see, do I close funding for the disabled kid, or the poor kid? Do I close this Navy shipyard or some other one?'" Obama said. "You can't gloss over the pain and the impact it's going to have on the economy."

Giving the Obama administration more authority could take pressure off of Congress to address the sequester. But the White House is also keenly aware that it would give Republicans an opening to blame Obama, instead of themselves, for every unpopular cut he makes.

## Bernanke signals continued support for low rates

gress, Bernanke sought to minimize concerns that the central bank's easy-money policies might cause runaway inflation later or dangerous bubbles in assets like stocks. He sought to reassure sometimes-skeptical senators that the Fed is monitoring potential threats and can defuse them before they hurt the economy.

Several Fed policymakers said at their most recent meeting that the Fed might have to scale

back its bond purchases because of the risks. Those comments, contained in minutes released last week, fanned speculation that the Fed might soon allow long-term borrowing rates to rise. Stock prices fell sharply.

But Bernanke gave no signal that the Fed might shift away from its low-interest-rate policy. He said its aggressive program to buy \$85 billion a month in Treasurys and mortgage bonds had kept borrowing costs low.

And that, in turn, has helped strengthen sectors such as housing and autos, he said.

On budget policy, Bernanke urged Congress to replace the automatic spending cuts due to start Friday with more gradual reductions in budget deficits in the short run. He noted that the Congressional Budget Office estimates that the automatic spending cuts that take effect Friday would shave growth by 0.6 percentage point this year.

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### FDA OKs drug for painful sex caused by menopause

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—The Food and Drug Administration on Tuesday approved the first pill-based drug for women who experience pain during sex because of menopause. The daily pill is called Osphena, and it is designed to treat menopausal symptoms that make the vaginal tissue thinner and more fragile, causing pain during sexual intercourse. The condition, known as dyspareunia, is one of the most commonly reported health ailments among postmenopausal women, according to the FDA. Menopause occurs when the ovaries stop producing the hormone estrogen, usually around age 45 or 50. Osphena acts like replacement estrogen and makes vaginal tissue thicker and less fragile.

#### JPMorgan to scale back troubled-mortgage jobs

**NEW YORK (AP)**—JPMorgan will trim about 19,000 jobs over the next two years but cast a positive spin on the news: It is shrinking the unit it had beefed up to handle troubled mortgages. The bulk of the cuts, about 15,000, will come at the mortgage unit, which had swelled to about 50,000 workers from a pre-financial crisis roster of 20,000 because the bank needed more people to process defaulted mortgages. The bank said it hopes to find jobs in other parts of the company for displaced workers through a "redeployment" program. The rest of the cuts, about 4,000, will come from the consumer banking business, mostly the branches. JPMorgan said those cuts will come through attrition, not lay-offs.



#### LEADING INDICATORS

##### DOW

13,900.13  
+115.96  
+0.84%

##### S&P

1,496.94  
+9.09  
+0.61%

##### NASDAQ

3,129.65  
+13.40  
+0.43%

#### EXCHANGE RATES

		Hong Kong Dollar	7.757	Philippine Peso	40.7459
Australian Dollar	0.979	Indian Rupee	53.9346	Singapore Dollar	1.2381
British Pound	0.6621	Indonesian Rupiah	9709.02	South Korean Won	1085.16
Canadian Dollar	1.0259	Japanese Yen	91.7753	Swiss Franc	0.9327
Chinese Yuan	6.2268	Malaysian Ringgit	3.0992	Taiwan Dollar	29.679
Euro	0.766	New Zealand Dollar	1.2133	Thailand Baht	29.82

In U.S. dollar terms

# Nation

## Senate confirms Hagel for defense secretary

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—A deeply divided Senate voted on Tuesday to confirm Republican Chuck Hagel to be the nation's next defense secretary, handing President Barack Obama's pick the top Pentagon job just days before billions of dollars in automatic, across-the-board budget cuts hit the military.

The vote was 58-41, with four Republicans joining the Democrats in backing the contentious choice. Hagel's only GOP support came from former colleagues Thad Cochran of Mississippi, Dick Shelby of Alabama and Mike Johanns of Nebraska—all three had announced their support earlier—and Rand Paul of Kentucky.

The vote came just hours after Republicans dropped their unprecedented delay of a Pentagon choice and allowed the nomination to move forward on a 71-27 vote.

Hagel, 66, a former two-term Nebraska senator and twice-wounded Vietnam combat veteran, succeeds Defense Secretary Leon Panetta. Hagel, who is expected to be sworn in at the Pentagon on Wednesday, said in a statement that he was honored that the president and the Senate "have entrusted me to serve our nation once again."

Obama welcomed the bipartisan Senate vote, although 41 Republicans opposed his nominee, and said in a statement that "we will have the defense secretary our nation needs and the leader our troops deserve."

The president looked past the divisions and said he was grateful to Hagel "for reminding us that when it comes to our national defense, we are not



In this Jan. 31, 2013, file photo, Secretary of Defense nominee Chuck Hagel testifies before the Senate Armed Services Committee during his confirmation hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Democrats or Republicans, we are Americans, and our greatest responsibility is the security of the American people."

Republicans had opposed their onetime colleague, casting him as unqualified for the job, hostile toward Israel and soft on Iran. The objections remained strong well after the vote.

"I continue to have serious questions about whether Chuck Hagel is up to the job of being our secretary of defense," Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said in a statement. "I hope, for the sake of our own national security, he exceeds expectations."

Hagel joins Obama's retooled second-term, national security team of Secretary of State John Kerry and CIA Director-designate John Brennan at a time of uncertainty for a military emerging from two wars and fighting worldwide terrorism with smaller, deficit-driven budgets.

Among his daunting challenges are deciding on troop levels in Afghanistan as the United States winds down its combat presence and dealing with \$46 billion in budget cuts set to kick in on Friday. He also will have to work with lawmakers who spent weeks vilifying him.

Republicans insisted that Hagel was battered and bloodied after their repeated attacks during the protracted political fight.

"He will take office with the weakest support of any defense secretary in modern history, which will make him less effective on his job," said Sen. John Cornyn of Texas, the Senate GOP's No. 2 Republican. Not so, said Democratic Sen. Jack Reed, who pointed out that Hagel now has the title and the fight is history.

"All have to work together for the interest of the country," said Reed, D-R.I.

The vote ended one of the most bitter fights over a Cabinet choice and former senator since 1989 when the Democratic-led Senate defeated newly elected President George H.W. Bush's nomination of Republican John Tower to be defense secretary.

In the course of the rancorous, seven-week nomination fight, Republicans, led by freshman Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas and Sen. Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma, insinuated that Hagel has a cozy relationship with Iran and received payments for speeches from extreme or radical groups. Those comments drew a rebuke

from Democrats and some Republicans.

Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, dismissed the "unfair innuendoes" against Hagel and called him an "outstanding American patriot" whose background as an enlisted soldier would send a positive message to the nation's servicemen and women. Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., questioned how the confirmation process devolved into a character assassination in which Hagel was accused of "having secret ties with our enemies."

"I sincerely hope that the practice of challenging nominations with innuendo and inference, rather than facts and figures, was an aberration and not a roadmap," she said in a statement after the vote.

Obama got no points with the GOP for tapping the former two-term Republican senator. GOP lawmakers excoriated Hagel and cast him as a radical far out of the mainstream. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., clashed with his onetime friend over his opposition to President George W. Bush's decision to send an extra 30,000 troops to Iraq in 2007 at a point when the war seemed in danger of being lost. Hagel, who voted to authorize military force in Iraq, later opposed the conflict, comparing it to Vietnam and arguing that it shifted the focus from Afghanistan.

McCain said several GOP lawmakers also had "a lot of ill will" toward the moderate Republican for his criticism of Bush and his backing for Democratic candidates.

## Advanced breast cancer edges up in younger women

**CHICAGO** (AP)—Advanced breast cancer has increased slightly among young women, a 34-year analysis suggests. The disease is still uncommon among women younger than 40, and the small change has experts scratching their heads about possible reasons.

The results are potentially worrisome because young women's tumors tend to be more aggressive than older women's, and they're much less likely to get routine screening for the disease.

Still, that doesn't explain why there'd be an increase in advanced cases and the researchers and other experts say more work is needed to find answers.

It's likely that the increase has more than one cause, said Dr. Rebecca Johnson, the study's lead author and medical director of a teen and young adult cancer program at Seattle Children's Hospital. "The change might be due to some sort of modifiable risk factor, like a lifestyle change" or exposure to some sort of cancer-

linked substance, she said.

Johnson said the results translate to about 250 advanced cases diagnosed in women younger than 40 in the mid-1970s versus more than 800 in 2009. During those years, the number of women nationwide in that age range went from about 22 million to closer to 30 million—an increase that explains part of the study trend "but definitely not all of it," Johnson said.

Other experts said women delaying pregnancy might be a factor, partly because getting pregnant at an older age might cause an already growing tumor to spread more quickly in response to pregnancy hormones.

Obesity and having at least a drink or two daily have both been linked with breast cancer but research is inconclusive on other possible risk factors, including tobacco and chemicals in the environment. Whether any of these explains the slight increase in advanced disease in young women is unknown.

## DHS releasing illegal immigrants before sequester

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—A week before mandatory budget cuts go into effect across the government, the Department of Homeland Security has started releasing illegal immigrants being held in immigration jails across the country, Immigration and Customs Enforcement said Tuesday.

Gillian Christensen, an ICE spokeswoman, said ICE has re-

viewed "several hundred cases" of immigrants being held in jails around the country and released them in the last week. They have been "placed on an appropriate, more cost-effective form of supervised release," she said.

Christensen said the agency's "priority for detention remains on serious criminal offenders and other individuals who pose a significant threat to public safety."

She did not say how released immigrants were selected or what jails they were released from.

Tuesday's announcement of jail releases is the first tangible impact of the looming budget cuts for DHS.

The Obama administration has been issuing dire warnings about the impact of the sequestration and DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano told reporters at

the White House Monday that across-the-board cuts would impact the department's core operations, including border security and airport screening operations.

She also warned that DHS might not be able to afford to keep the 34,000 immigration jail beds mandated by Congress. On average last week, there were 30,773 people being held in ICE jails.

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### 2nd major snowstorm paralyzes parts of Midwest

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** (AP)—For the second time in a week, a major winter storm paralyzed parts of the nation's midsection Tuesday, dumping a fresh layer of heavy, wet snow atop cities still choked with piles from the previous system and making travel perilous from the Oklahoma panhandle to the Great Lakes. The weight of the snow strained power lines and cut electricity to more than 100,000 homes and businesses. At least three deaths were blamed on the blizzard. The Missouri Department of Transportation issued a rare "no travel" advisory, urging people to stay off highways except in case of a dire emergency. Conditions were so bad that some snowplows slid into ditches, underlining the danger even to well-equipped travelers.

#### Agent describes grisly cannibal talk at NY trial

**NEW YORK** (AP)—The trial of a New York police officer accused of conspiring to kill and eat women featured grisly testimony Tuesday as an FBI agent described the Internet correspondence between the officer and a man in Great Britain who spoke as if he were mentoring the officer on the art of cannibalism. Agent Corey Walsh read passage after passage from emails and text messages between Officer Gilberto Valle and a man the government said used Moody Blues as a screen name and MeatMarketMan as an email address. "I'm dying to taste some girl meat," the agent said Valle wrote. Some of the passages went into sickening descriptions about cooking and eating women. Others sounded so absurd they bordered on cartoonish, feeding the defense argument that Valle and friends he met on extreme sexual fetish websites were merely engaging in fantasies.

# Asia



This undated photo provided by Japan's Defense Ministry shows China's Jiangkai-I class frigate vessel. Japanese Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera said Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2013, that Chinese navy vessels, including Jiangkai-I, directed the radar in two incidents last month, on Jan. 19 and Jan. 30. AP

## China launches stealth frigate amid ocean tensions

**BEIJING** (AP)—China has launched the first ship in a new class of stealth missile frigates, state media reported Tuesday, amid ongoing tensions with neighboring countries over Beijing's maritime claims.

The People's Liberation Army Navy is building a total of 20 Type 056 Jiangdao class frigates to replace older models and bolster its ability to conduct patrols and escort ships and submarines in waters it claims in the South China and East China seas.

■ ■ ■

**BEIJING** (AP)—Chinese buoys placed near islands claimed by Beijing but controlled by Japan are intended to monitor ocean conditions and should not be "played up," a Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said Tuesday following questions from Tokyo.

Japan had asked China to explain the purpose of the buoys, which were placed just outside Japanese waters near uninhabited East China Sea islands called Senkaku by Japan and Diaoyu by China. Some in

Japan had speculated that the buoys were intended to detect the movement of submarines.

Speaking at a regularly scheduled news conference, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said they were set there by Chinese authorities to carry out "maritime weather observations."

"I think it does not deserve to be disputed or played up," Hong said.

■ ■ ■

The first in the class, No. 582, was formally delivered to the

navy on Monday in Shanghai, which is home to one of the country's largest complexes of naval shipyards, according to the official Xinhua News Agency and the navy's official website.

Newly promoted navy commander Wu Shengli attended the delivery ceremony, the reports said, an indication of the importance with which the service regards the new ships' mission.

The helicopter-equipped ships feature a sleek design to reduce clutter and make them harder to spot by radar and are armed

with anti-ship and anti-aircraft missiles. They also need a crew of just 60, two-thirds fewer than older vessels, a major advantage that should boost efficiency and relieve burdens in training and recruitment. At 1,440 tons fully loaded, is considerably smaller than U.S. Navy frigates, and is categorized by some observers as a member of the smaller class of ship known as corvettes.

China's navy has so far stayed aloof from the island disputes in order to avoid further escalating tensions, with patrol ships from

the Ministry of Transportation and other government agencies dispatched instead to assert China's territorial claims.

However, China has made no secret of its desire to extend its navy's global reach, and the service has received considerable attention in China's military modernization. China's first aircraft carrier, the overhauled Soviet-era Liaoning, entered service last year, while a growing array of nuclear submarines and ultra-modern surface ships are also joining the fleet.

## Gunmen kill Pakistani officer escorting polio team

**PESHAWAR, Pakistan** (AP)—Gunmen shot and killed a police officer Tuesday who was protecting a team of polio workers during a U.N.-backed vaccination campaign in northwestern Pakistan.

It was the latest of several attacks on Pakistani efforts to eradicate the deadly disease, found in only three countries in the world. Militant extremists view the vaccination campaigns as Western-backed plots to gain intelligence in sensitive areas and have frequently targeted the medical staff and those protecting polio teams.

No polio workers were wounded in Tuesday's attack in the Mardan district of Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa province, said police officer Fazal Wahid. At least two attackers were hiding in a field near a narrow road as the polio workers walked by on their way to visit houses in the area, said Mardan Police Chief Inam Jan.

"The polio workers were going door-to-door and one police officer was protecting them when the gunmen suddenly attacked them near an open area and fled," Jan said, adding that the police were searching for the attackers but that so far no one had been arrested.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack and it wasn't immediately known whether the police officer was

targeted because he was protecting the polio team or for some other reason.

Janbaz Afridi, a senior health official, said the polio vaccination campaign continued in various parts of the province Tuesday despite the killing. "We have taken best possible steps for the safety of polio teams," he said.

In 2012, humanitarian workers, including those working to prevent the polio spread, were repeatedly targeted. According to UN figures, 19 humanitarian workers were killed last year in Pakistan. Of those deaths, 11 were related to polio, including a rash of shootings in December when

nine polio workers were killed across Pakistan.

In an effort to protect people administering the vaccine, the government has increasingly sent police officers into the field along with the vaccinator. But they have come under attack as well.

On Jan. 29, gunmen riding on a motorcycle shot and killed a police officer protecting polio workers in the Swabi district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

Mazhar Nisar, a senior official working with the Prime Minister's polio monitoring cell, said at least 11 members of polio teams have been killed in various parts of Pakistan since December.

## Vietnam to participate in UN peacekeeping missions

**HANOI, Vietnam** (AP)—Vietnam says it will begin participating in United Nations peacekeeping operations early next year, a further sign that it wants to assume a bigger role in international affairs.

Facing rising demand, the U.N. has appealed for countries to send more troops and police officers to help carry out its peacekeeping missions around the world. Vietnam didn't say how large a contribution it is prepared to make. Most of the 115 participating countries cur-

rently make only token contributions of less than 40 people.

The state-controlled Tien Phong newspaper on Tuesday quoted Vice Defense Minister Nguyen Chi Vinh as telling visiting U.N. Assistant General Secretary Edmond Mulet that Vietnamese troops would be available from early next year. The report gave few other details.

Vietnam opened its economy to foreign investment in the 1990s and has followed a steady policy of embracing regional and international institutions.

But the Communist rulers of the country's 87 million people have shown no sign of relaxing bans on freedom of speech and political activism even as they seek greater global clout.

Countries contribute troops to the U.N. for a variety of reasons, including national prestige, the ability to influence individual missions and a perception that doing so may help in bids for elected seats at the world body. U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon acknowledged in 2011 that sourcing peacekeepers was

a major problem, saying he had been "begging leaders to make resources available to us."

There are currently 15 U.N. peacekeeping missions around the world. Bangladesh is currently the biggest contributor with more than 8,000 personnel, closely followed by Pakistan and India. The United States and most European countries, while being the major bank-rollers of the peacekeeping program, mostly prefer to deploy their troops with NATO and EU or other Western-led missions.

## Market fire kills at least 13 in east Indian city

**KOLKATA, India** (AP)—A fire broke out at an illegal market in the eastern Indian city of Kolkata early Wednesday morning, killing at least 13 people, a top fire official said. The blaze started before 4 a.m. and was likely caused by a short circuit, West Bengal fire minister Javed Khan said. He said the fire was under control, but toxic gas being released by the blaze was hampering rescue efforts. Another eight people were hospitalized in critical condition and the death toll was expected to rise, he said. He said the shopping area was "an illegal, unauthorized market."

# World

## Fiery balloon accident kills 19 tourists in Egypt

**LUXOR, Egypt** (AP)—The terror lasted less than two minutes: Smoke poured from a hot air balloon carrying sightseers on a sunrise flight over the ancient city of Luxor, it burst in a flash of flame and then plummeted about 1,000 feet to earth. A farmer watched helplessly as tourists trying to escape the blazing gondola leaped to their deaths.

Nineteen people were killed Tuesday in what appeared to be the deadliest hot air ballooning accident on record. A British tourist and the Egyptian pilot, who was badly burned, were the sole survivors.

The tragedy raised worries of another blow to the nation's vital tourism industry, decimated by two years of unrest since the 2011 revolution that toppled autocrat Hosni Mubarak. The southern city of Luxor has been hit hard, with vacant hotel rooms and empty cruise ships.

It also prompted accusations that authorities have let safety standards decline amid the political turmoil and infighting, although civil aviation officials said the balloon had been inspected recently and that the pilot may have been to blame, jumping out rather than stopping the fire.

Authorities suspended hot air balloon flights, a popular tourist



In this combo made from images from amateur video provided by Al-Jazeera, smoke pours from a hot air balloon over Luxor, Egypt, top left, before bursting, top right, and plummeting about 1,000 feet to earth, bottom left and right, on Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2013.

attraction here, while investigators determined the cause.

The balloon was carrying 20 tourists—from France, Britain, Belgium, Japan and Hong Kong—and an Egyptian pilot on a flight over Luxor, 510 kilometers (320 miles) south of Cairo, officials said. The flights provide spectacular views of the ancient Karnak and Luxor tem-

ples and the Valley of the Kings, the burial ground of Tutankhamun and other pharaohs.

According to initial indications, the balloon was in the process of landing after 7 a.m. when a cable got caught around a helium tube and a fire erupted, according to an investigator with the state prosecutor's office.

The balloon then ascended

rapidly, the investigator said. The fire detonated a gas canister and the balloon plunged about 300 meters (1,000 feet) to the ground, crashing in a sugar cane field outside al-Dhabaa village just west of Luxor, a security official said.

Both the investigator and the security official spoke on condition of anonymity because they

were not authorized to talk to the media.

"I saw tourists catching fire and they were jumping from the balloon," said Hassan Abdel-Rasoul, a farmer in al-Dhabaa. "They were trying to flee the fire but it was on their bodies."

One of those on fire was a visibly pregnant woman, he said.

Amateur video taken from



another balloon and shown on Al-Jazeera Mubasher television showed the balloon's final moments.

Smoke is seen rising for several seconds from the gondola, silhouetted against the risen sun. The balloon itself catches fire with a flash, and in an instant, it bursts and falls as a fireball to the ground, trailing smoke. Egyptians on the balloon filming the scene can be heard crying and gasping in horror at the sight.

The bodies of the tourists were scattered across the field around the remnants of the balloon, as rescue officials collected the remains.

The crash immediately killed 18, according to Luxor Gov. Ezzat Saad. Two Britons and the pilot were taken to a hospital, but one of the Britons died of his injuries soon after.

## Benedict to be called 'emeritus pope,' wear white

**VATICAN CITY** (AP)—Two pontiffs, both wearing white, both called "pope" and living a few yards from one another, with the same key aide serving them.

The Vatican's announcement Tuesday that Pope Benedict XVI will be known as "emeritus pope" in his retirement, be called "Your Holiness" and continue to wear the white cassock associated with the papacy has fueled concerns about potential conflicts arising from the peculiar reality now facing the Catholic Church: having one reigning and one retired pope.

Benedict's title and what he will wear have been a major source of speculation since the 85-year-old pontiff stunned the world and announced he would resign Thursday, the first pope to do so in 600 years.

There has been good reason why popes haven't stepped down in past centuries, given the possibility for divided allegiances and even schism. But the Vatican insists that while the situation created by Benedict's retirement is certainly unique, no major conflicts will arise.

"According to the evolution

of Catholic doctrine and mentality, there is only one pope. Clearly it's a new situation, but I don't think there will be problems," Giovanni Maria Vian, the editor of the Vatican newspaper *L'Osservatore Romano*, said in an interview.

Critics aren't so sure. Some Vatican-based cardinals have privately grumbled that it will make it more difficult for the next pope with Benedict still around.

Swiss theologian Hans Kueng, Benedict's one-time colleague-turned-critic, went further: "With Benedict XVI,

there is a risk of a shadow pope who has abdicated but can still indirectly exert influence," he told Germany's *Der Spiegel* magazine last week.

The Vatican spokesman, the Rev. Federico Lombardi, said Tuesday that Benedict himself decided on his name and wardrobe in consultation with others, settling on "Your Holiness Benedict XVI" and either "emeritus pope" or "emeritus Roman pontiff."

Lombardi said he didn't know why Benedict had decided to drop his other main title: bishop of Rome.

## Mexico says 26,121 went missing during drug war

**MEXICO CITY** (AP)—An official count shows at least 26,121 people were reported missing during the term of President Felipe Calderon, who launched the country's offensive against drug cartels, Mexico's new administration said Tuesday.

Lia Limon, the Interior Department's subsecretary for human rights, said the list used data from local prosecutors across Mexico, and includes people reported missing for any reason during the previous administration. It doesn't include

information collected after November 2012.

The list has been a subject of controversy in Mexico for weeks. After Limon said last week that some 27,000 were missing, a member of Calderon's administration disputed the figure, saying the only

registry on disappeared people contains 5,319 names. Limon said the government would work to compare the official list with others assembled by government agencies and rights groups.

The government will also

work to clarify who on the list may have been a victim of crime, and who may have gone missing for reasons like migration to the United States, a family dispute or a natural disaster.

"We have to be clear that this database doesn't prejudge the reasons that people can't be found, because many of the people on it could be missing for a variety of reasons that don't have to do with criminal acts," Limon said.

She said some sort of investigation had been opened in 20,915 of the cases, but she of-

fered no details.

The Interior Department has granted some public access to the list, but those seeking information must enter a person's name in order to obtain any data.

The civil society group Puesta Civica recently published a database it said was created by the federal attorney-general's office that contained 20,582. Days earlier, The Washington Post published a story that said it had been given a copy of the database that contained more than 25,000 names.

## With atrocities going up, Syrians collect evidence

**BEIRUT** (AP)—Syrian activist Yashar hopes the security agents who tormented him during five months of detention will one day be put on trial. In detention, he says, he was locked naked in a tiny box for a week, beaten daily during marathon interrogations and blindfolded for 45 days.

A whole range of groups have accelerated a campaign to gather evidence of war crimes including torture, massacres and indiscriminate killings in the Syrian regime's war against rebels, hoping to find justice if President Bashar Assad falls. Some talk about referring the cases to the International Criminal Court or forming a special tribunal, but many in Syria hope that it's all laid out in the country's own courtrooms.

"I want to take my case to a Syrian court and a Syrian judge who will put my torturers in the same jail where I was held," Yashar, 28, told The Associated Press. He declined to give his full name for security reasons.

Some 70,000 people have been killed and thousands of others maimed, injured or missing in Syria since the uprising against Assad began in March 2011, according to the United Nations. Both the U.N. Human

Rights Council and the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria have published multiple reports documenting crimes committed during the civil war, including the slaughter of more than 100 civilians in the central region of Houla last May blamed on pro-regime militiamen.

A recent U.N. report accuses both sides in the war of atrocities but says those committed by rebel fighters have not reached the "intensity and scale" of the regime's.

The amount of data is massive, and the challenges are immense. The Syrian government has not given permission to the U.N. commission to visit Syria and has largely closed the country to independent journalists, further complicating the work of rights groups.

Even so, groups of determined Syrian activists continue quietly to collect the evidence.

One group, the Violations Documentation Center in Syria, has documented 49,763 deaths excluding soldiers, 35,508 detentions and 982 people missing in lists that include the name of the deceased, status, the region they come from, date of death and cause of death.

# Focus

**OTAKI, New Zealand** (AP)—Sandra Vidulich is so excited about the leather boots she ordered through Amazon that she rips open the box in front of the postman and tries them on.

"I loooove them," she declares, as the driveway at her tree-lined home in rural New Zealand briefly becomes a catwalk. "They're cool."

For now, a boom in Internet shopping is helping keep alive moribund postal services across the developed world. But the core of their business—letters—is declining precipitously, and data from many countries indicate that parcels alone won't be enough to save them. The once-proud postal services that helped build modern society are scaling back operations, risking further declines.

The United Kingdom is preparing to wash its hands of mail deliveries entirely by selling the Royal Mail, which traces its roots back nearly 500 years to the reign of King Henry VIII.

The U.S. Postal Service sparked uproar this month when it announced plans to stop delivering letters on Saturdays. New Zealand is considering more drastic cuts: three days of deliveries per week instead of six.

It's only in the past few years that postal services have truly felt the pinch of the Internet. Revenues at the USPS, which delivers about 40 percent of the world's mail, peaked in 2007 at \$75 billion.

But the decline since then has been rapid. USPS revenue in 2012 fell to \$65 billion, and its losses were \$15.9 billion. It handled 160 billion pieces of mail that year, down from 212 billion in 2007. And it had slashed its workforce by 156,000, or 23 percent.

Elsewhere, the news is just as grim. La Poste in France estimates that by 2015, it will be delivering 30 percent fewer letters than it did in 2008. Japan last year delivered 13 percent fewer letters than it did four years earlier. In Denmark, the postal service said letter volumes dropped 12 percent in a single year.

The Universal Postal Union, which reports to the United Nations, estimates that letter volumes worldwide dropped by nearly 4 percent in 2011 and at an even faster clip in developed nations. Developed countries closed 5 percent of their post offices in 2011 alone.

And while Internet shopping continues to grow, postal services that once profited from their monopoly on letters find themselves competing for parcels against private companies like FedEx.

U.S. Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe said he doesn't believe the service can ever regain the revenue from packages it has lost from letters. He said axing Saturday mail deliveries, while keeping six-day-a-week package deliveries, will save the

service about \$2 billion a year.

Donahoe said he thinks ending Saturday letter deliveries will keep the USPS a solid proposition for years to come.

"People still go to their mailbox every day and they wait for their mail to come," he said. "It's part of American life."

And it has been since the beginning. The postal service's role was defined in the Constitution, and Benjamin Franklin was the first postmaster general. The short-lived Pony Express achieved an enduring place in American folklore. Even the modern system of highways and airline travel grew from pioneering routes developed by the postal service.

"It's easy to forget how central this institution was to commerce, public life, social affairs," said Richard John, a Columbia University professor who has written a book on the postal service. "It was once very, very important. Of course, that was then and this is now."

Even now, however, much depends on the post office. According to the Envelope Manufacturers Association, the postal service is at the core of a trillion-dollar mailing industry in the U.S. that employs more than 8 million people.

And for delivering a paper letter cheaply, there is simply no alternative. If rural residents were ever charged the actual cost of mail rather than the subsidized standard rate, John said, the costs would be prohibitive.

The value of the mail goes beyond money in many places, including rural New Zealand. The postal carrier serves as a focal point for the community.

John Lahmert, the postman who delivered the boots, has been



In this photo taken Friday, Feb. 15, 2013, postman John Lahmert delivers mail in rural Otaki, New Zealand. New Zealand is considering cutting letter deliveries from six days a week to three as global demand for postal services dwindles. AP

# World's postal services struggle with lower demand

delivering mail to farms around the North Island town of Otaki for 18 years. The 72-year-old independent contractor seems to know everybody on his route and doesn't mind stopping for a chat.

Noeline Saunders greets him

at the gate, wondering if her citrus trees have arrived. Not yet, Lahmert tells her. Barry Georgeson, a semi-retired farmer, calls out a greeting and wanders down to pick up his letters.

"We don't like change,"

Georgeson said when asked about the possibility of mail coming just three times a week. But he said he could learn to live with it.

Many seemed resigned to a reduced service.

"I think people can genuinely understand that the world is changing," said New Zealand Prime Minister John Key. "And while some people are still very reliant on the mail, for a lot of people that's a fraction of the way they receive information."

About 7 in 10 Americans said they'd favor axing Saturday deliveries if it allowed the post office to deal with billions of dollars in debt, according to a poll by The New York Times and CBS News.

Some countries, including Australia, Canada and Sweden, have already cut deliveries to five days a week. Others are tinkering with partial privatizations.

Exactly what Britons might expect under a privatized service remains unclear. Some speculate it could mean cutbacks.

Royal Mail's Chief Executive Moya Greene declined to comment for this story: "We're simply not doing inter-

views about the planned sale," spokesman Mish Tullar wrote in an email.

In policy documents, the UK government said six-day-a-week deliveries and standardized letter prices remain vital but that private investors will provide more financial stability than "unpredictable" taxpayer funding.

While letter volumes are falling in developed nations, the reverse is true in some developing countries. In China, mail deliveries are up 56 percent since 2007, driven by a more than fourfold increase in premium express mail, according to figures from China Post.

Yet people in China are accustomed to having their mail show up late or disappear altogether. As Internet use increases in the developing world, mail may never be as essential as it has been elsewhere.

Not everybody is ready to give up on letters. Reader's Digest sends out about 500,000 pieces of mail each week to people in Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and Malaysia as it tries to entice them to buy its merchandise.

"A lot of players are going for a digital strategy, and fewer are doing the direct-mail approach," said Walter Byleveldt, managing director for the Asia Pacific region. "Because of that, the mailbox will get emptier. It will potentially become an exciting place to go and look."

New Zealanders, however, may be looking there half as often as early as next year, if proposed changes to the New Zealand Post's charter are approved.

The government is accepting public comments until mid-March. A quarter of those received so far were mailed in, a rate considered unusually high.

The other 75 percent? Email.



In this photo taken Friday, Feb. 15, 2013, Sandra Vidulich is thrilled about her new leather boots delivered by postman John Lahmert in rural Otaki, New Zealand. AP

# Environment

## Scientists to consider options for South Pacific albacore tuna

**HONOLULU**—The Scientific and Statistical Committee that advises the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council is meeting at the Council office in Honolulu this week to discuss management of federally managed fisheries in Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the remote US Pacific Island areas.

The recommendations of the committee and other Council advisory bodies will be considered by the Council when it convenes March 12-14, 2013, at the Gov. H. Rex Lee Auditorium (Fale Laumei), Pago Pago, American Samoa.

Recommendations by the Council are transmitted the U.S. Secretary of Commerce for final approval.

Among the key issues to be considered is the management of the American Samoa South Pacific albacore fishery. The American Samoa longline fishery is the second largest fishery in the U.S. Pacific Islands. The fishery is based almost entirely on fishing for South Pacific albacore caught for the American Samoa cannery industry, with only a small domestic market, and limited access to overseas markets. This South Pacific albacore is also important to the central South Pacific countries neighboring American Samoa, which also supply the American Samoa cannery and fish processing industry.



Catches of South Pacific albacore by all fleets south of the equator have more than doubled in the past decade and are currently about 90 percent of maximum sustainable yield. This is due primarily to the doubling of vessels from China fishing under access agreements with the Solomon Islands and switching by Taiwanese longliners from targeting bigeye to targeting albacore.

The SSC and Council will examine options and scenarios to maintain the viability and continuity of the American Samoa longline fishery.

The SSC and Council will take into account current management measures, South Pacific albacore stock status, regional and sub-regional fishery management arrangements of neighboring countries belonging to the Forum Fisheries Agency and Te Vaka Moana, and likely Conservation and Management Measures for South Pacific albacore implemented by the international Western and Central Pacific Fishery Commission.

Another key issue the SSC will consider is methods for establishing acceptable biological catch for stocks

for which there is limited data. Currently, the SSC uses 75 percent of the historic catch in such cases. It will review and consider other methods for stocks in data poor situations.

The Western Pacific Fishery Management Council was established by Congress to manage fisheries in offshore waters around Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, CNMI and the US Pacific remote island areas. For more information, visit [www.wpcouncil.org](http://www.wpcouncil.org) or email [info.wpcouncil@noaa.gov](mailto:info.wpcouncil@noaa.gov); phone (808) 522-8220, or fax (808) 522-8226. (*Wespac*)

## Free this Friday at AMP: two short films

First Friday Films is showing two films this Friday, March 1, at 6:30pm at American Memorial Park's theater as part of its ongoing monthly film series: *First Voyage to the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument* and *One Ocean: Footprints in the Sand*.

*First Voyage to the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument* is a documentary produced by APASEEM (apaseem.org), which covers the scope and beauty of the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument as well as the unique scientific discoveries in the area. The story centers around voyager Dennis Chan, a Saipan high school student who traveled to the trench on a research expedition. The film will be introduced



*Footprints in the Sand* is an episode of CBC's *One Ocean* series.

by Ken Kramer, an APASEEM member who has been involved in the production of the film.

*Footprints in the Sand* is an episode of CBC's *One Ocean* series. Humans

have always lived along Earth's varied coastlines. For tens of thousands of years the ocean has nurtured and inspired us, and we lived in balance with its seemingly endless bounty.

*Footprints in the Sand* explores how that has changed as our growing demands are changing the ocean and the places of recovery that can give us hope for a healthy future ocean.

First Friday Films is a partnership between American Memorial Park, the Division of Environmental Quality, Coastal Resources Management and the Humanities Council with support from other organizations. This particular film is sponsored by the Humanities Council. As always, our film events are free and open to the public. For planning purposes, this event will run about 80 minutes.

For more information about First Friday Films, email [fffsaipan@gmail.com](mailto:fffsaipan@gmail.com) or check out [www.firstfridayfilmssaipan.blogspot.com](http://www.firstfridayfilmssaipan.blogspot.com). (*PR*)

## Green Chemistry Challenge Award nominations now open

**WASHINGTON**—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has announced the nominations for the 2013 Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Awards for companies and institutions that can design chemicals or a new product that help protect public health and the environment.

“The Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge is an opportunity for EPA to recognize green chemistry innovations that are having real time results in making manufacturing processes and products that we use every day safer,” said Jim Jones, acting assistant administrator for EPA’s Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention. “Increasingly, environmental

benefits can result in reduced costs or increased market opportunities for new products, or both. In 2012, EPA launched an effort to complement the award program by providing a forum for winners and nominees to focus on maximizing their investments in green chemistry.”

Award-winning technologies during 2012 included one which saves \$2 million to \$20 million each year in each of eighteen plants, which convert bauxite ore into the raw material for making aluminum. Another technology is saving over \$1 million each year in a large paper mill. Today’s awards reflect the ongoing commitment President Obama high-

lighted in his State of the Union address to partner with businesses and communities to encourage investments that help small businesses and grow the U.S. economy.

Green chemistry is the design of chemical products and processes that reduce both the generation and use of chemicals that are hazardous to the environment and people’s health. Nominations for innovative technologies that feature the design of greener chemicals, greener chemical synthesis, or greener chemical reactions are due to the agency by April 30, 2013. EPA is particularly interested in receiving nominations on approaches or technologies that reduce or eliminate

the need for brominated flame retardant chemicals. The EPA anticipates recognizing five award winning green chemistry technologies this fall.

Since the inception of the awards 18 years ago, EPA has received 1,490 nominations and presented awards to 88 technologies. It has resulted in the generation and reduced use of more than 825 million pounds of hazardous chemicals and solvents, saved 21 billion gallons of water, and eliminated 7.9 billion pounds of carbon dioxide releases to the air.

More information on past award winners and how to submit entries can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/greenchemistry>. (*EPA*)

### DO YOUR PART

## Green your home office

By TERRI BENNETT  
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

When we talk about becoming more “green” at home, we often talk about areas that use a lot of energy, water and other resources such as kitchens and bathrooms. These are certainly high-impact spaces that could easily be made more efficient. But there’s also a lot of potential in your home office. Do Your Part in your workspace to limit waste and save money at the same time.

### PAPER PROBLEMS

Taking a look at your paper trail is the perfect place to start. Pick the right paper products by looking for ones made with the highest amount of recycled post consumer content—that’s the paper you and I recycle. When you can, opt to print on both sides of the paper. If you need to shred sensitive documents, keep that shredded paper to use when sending packages or even for storing items such as fragile holiday decorations or china. For used paper—recycle it! Having a small recycling box under your desk will help make recycling paper a habit.

### TURN CARTRIDGES INTO CASH

Every year, hundreds of millions of ink and toner cartridges are used in this country. And 70 percent of those end up in our landfills. Printer cartridges are actually easily refilled and recycled. And, you can also get paid to turn in your old cartridges. There are a number of online sources that will supply a pre-paid shipping label to mail accepted cartridges in exchange for cash. Or you can turn in your used cartridges for recycling at Office Max, Staples and Office Depot and earn a store credit for every accepted cartridge.

### WASTED ENERGY WASTES MONEY

A power strip will start saving you money immediately. Office equipment such as computers, printers, chargers, and anything with a continuous display actually sip power even when the device is off or done charging. A power strip will allow you to plug all the chargers into one place. Since power strips have a central on/off switch, with the push of a button you can completely cut the power to everything using energy. This ‘phantom power’ adds up to as much as 10 percent of the energy we use at home.

### I UPGRADED—NOW WHAT?

There comes a time when a computer, hard drive, or printer in your home office will need to be upgraded. The last thing that should happen to your old electronics is to be put in the trash where they can potentially contaminate the earth with heavy metals. If you’re willing to donate these items, Goodwill’s Reconnect program is ideal. The non-profit partners with the Dell computer company to accept any brand of computer equipment. Then, Goodwill either sells or responsibly recycles them. All the money made is used to create job training and employment opportunities in your community.

Check out [DoYourPart.com/Columns](http://DoYourPart.com/Columns) to find our exclusive room-by-room checklists to make it simple and easy to Do Your Part in every room of your house.

*Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, eco-expert and author of Do Your Part: A practical guide for everyday green living, available at [DoYourPart.com](http://DoYourPart.com). Send questions to [terri@doyourpart.com](mailto:terri@doyourpart.com).*

# Life & Style

## Billionaire launches plans for Titanic replica

**NEW YORK** (AP)—What could possibly go wrong?

An Australian billionaire is getting ready to build a new version of the Titanic that could set sail in late 2016.

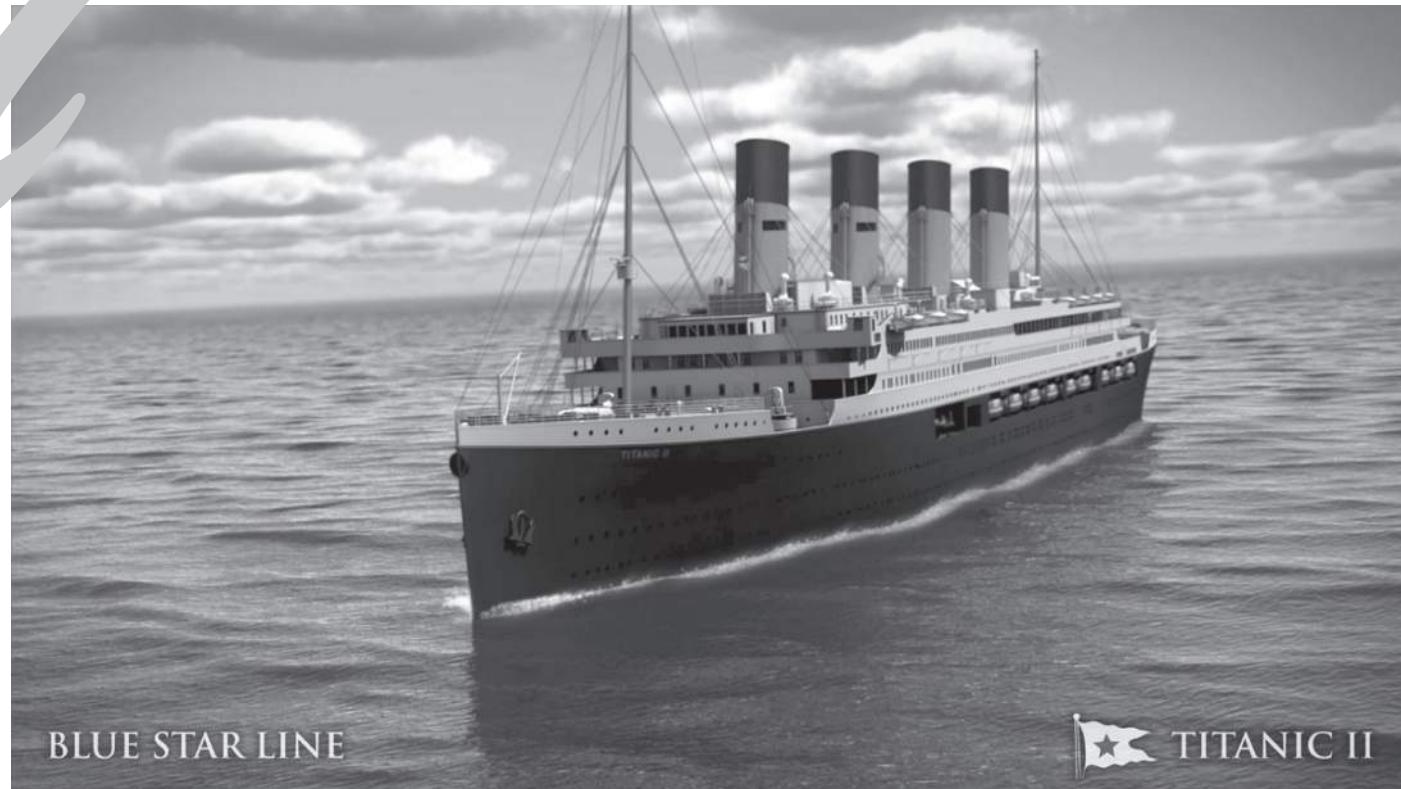
Clive Palmer unveiled blueprints for the famously doomed ship's namesake Tuesday at the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum in New York. He said construction is scheduled to start soon in China.

Palmer said 40,000 people have expressed interest in tickets for the maiden voyage, taking the original course from Southampton, England, to New York. He said people are inspired by his quest to replicate one of the most famous vessels in history.

"We all live on this planet, we all breathe the same air and, of course, the Titanic is about the things we've got in common," he said. "It links three continents."

The original Titanic was the world's largest and most luxurious ocean liner when it hit an iceberg in the North Atlantic and sank on April 15, 1912. Only 700 people of the more than 2,200 on board survived the most famous maritime disaster in history, partly because there were not enough lifeboats to carry everyone.

Palmer said an unknown when the original ship sailed—climate



BLUE STAR LINE

In this rendering provided by Blue Star Line, the Titanic II is shown cruising at sea.

change—may play into a positive for the new ship's fate.

"One of the benefits of global warming is there hasn't been as many icebergs in the North Atlantic these days," Palmer said.

Passengers on board the replica will dress in the fashion of that period and eat dishes from the original menu, in dining rooms copied from the ill-fated predecessor.

Joining Palmer on Tuesday was Helen Benziger, the great granddaughter of Titanic survi-

vor Margaret "Molly" Brown. Benziger, who agreed to serve on the advisory board for the Titanic II, said her great grandmother, who died in 1932, would have loved to see the Titanic rebuilt and complete the journey it never got to finish.

In what some may consider a temptation of fate for a remake of a notoriously "unsinkable" ship that sank, a representative of the Finnish designer of the Titanic II said it will be the "safest cruise ship in the world."

Markku Kanerva, director of sales for marine design company Deltamarin said that while the vessel is modeled after the legendary liner—the diesel-powered ship will even have four decorative smoke stacks mimicking the coal-powered originals—it will meet modern navigation and safety requirements.

In addition, plans call for a new "safety deck" featuring state-of-the-art lifeboats, safety chutes and slides. The new ship will also have amenities un-

known a century ago, like air conditioning.

Palmer, who is funding construction of the ship himself, built his fortune in real estate and coal. Australia's BRW magazine estimated his net worth last year at \$4 billion, although Forbes puts it at \$895 million.

"I want to spend the money I've got before I die," he said. "You might as well spend it, not leave it to the kids to spend, there will be enough left for them anyway."

## Lohan's attorney seeks deal with prosecutors

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Lindsay Lohan's attorney has suggested to prosecutors that the actress serve as a motivational speaker and perform non-jail activities to resolve her latest criminal case, according to a letter obtained Tuesday.

The letter from lawyer Mark Heller proposed several alternatives for Lohan, who could be sent to jail if a judge determines her actions in a traffic crash violated terms of her probation in a previous theft case.

His letter states that Lohan's turbulent home life has deeply impacted her and requires a different approach in the case.

The actress plans to spend time recording public service announcements and make "periodic visits to schools, hospitals, and other venues where she may pro-

vide inspirational talks, encouraging children to pursue positive goals and avoid bad habits," states the letter filed on Friday and released by the court Tuesday.

Heller also proposed the establishment of a nonprofit foundation in Lohan's name to benefit young people.

The actress "has made a commitment to herself to elevate her life and participate in activities which will advance her desire to lead a model life," Heller wrote in a motion seeking a delay in the case that returns to court on Friday. Trial is now set for March 18.

Lohan is charged with three misdemeanor charges of reckless driving, lying to police and obstructing officers from performing their duties. She has

pledged not guilty.

The actress could face 245 days in jail if she is found to be in violation of her probation.

The star of "Mean Girls" and "Freaky Friday" was sentenced to psychotherapy in November of 2011 in cases involving theft and drunken driving charges, but she has not been required to attend counseling since being placed on informal probation in March 2012.

Those terms were imposed by Judge Stephanie Sautner, who is retiring and will no longer handle Lohan's case.

The crash that prompted the current charges occurred in June on Pacific Coast Highway while Lohan was on the way to a movie shoot.

Terry White, chief deputy

city attorney in Santa Monica, declined comment on the letter. He said discussions about a possible resolution are scheduled to take place this week.

Lohan, 26, was on her way to a beach shoot with another person for the TV movie "Liz and Dick" when her car crashed into the back of a dump truck. Police allege she lied about being behind the wheel.

Heller is also seeking dismissal of the charges against Lohan, arguing that police ignored her when she said she didn't want to be interviewed without her attorney present.

Lohan was at the hospital at the time, not in custody, and showed no signs of impairment when officers gave her a field sobriety test, the lawyer said.



In this Oct. 11, 2012 file photo, Lindsay Lohan attends the Mr. Pink Ginseng launch party at the Beverly Wilshire hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif.

## Music, movie industry to warn copyright infringers

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Internet users who illegally share music, movies or TV shows online may soon get warning notices from their service providers that they are violating copyright law. Ignore the notices, and violators could face an Internet slow-down for 48 hours. Those who claim they're innocent can protest—for a fee.

For the first time since a spate

of aggressive and unpopular lawsuits almost a decade ago, the music and movie industries are going after Internet users they accuse of swapping copyrighted files online. But unlike the lawsuits from the mid-2000s—which swept up everyone from young kids to the elderly with sometimes ruinous financial penalties and court costs—

the latest effort is aimed at educating casual Internet pirates and convincing them to stop. There are multiple chances to make amends and no immediate legal consequences under the program if they don't.

"There's a bunch of questions that need to be answered because there are ways that this could end up causing prob-

lems for Internet users," such as the bureaucratic headache of being falsely accused, said David Sohn, general counsel for the Center for Democracy and Technology, a Washington-based civil liberties group. But he added: "There's also the potential for this to have an impact in reducing piracy in ways that don't carry a lot of

collateral damage."

The Copyright Alert System was put into effect this week by the nation's five biggest Internet service providers—Verizon, AT&T, Time Warner Cable, Comcast and Cablevision—and the two major associations representing industry—the Motion Picture Association of America and the Recording Industry Association of America.

**Pirate Bay moves from Sweden to Norway, Spain**

**S T O C K - HOLM** (AP)—Embattled file-sharing site The Pirate Bay is looking for safe havens in Norway and Spain after its Swedish host came under legal pressure to shut it down.

The Swedish Pirate Party, a small political party advocating transparency and freedom online, has provided Internet access to the site for the past three years.

But it's handing over those duties to sister parties in Norway and Spain's Catalonia region following legal threats from the Rights Alliance, a Swedish anti-piracy group representing the entertainment industry, officials for all three parties told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

"Basically, the service that was provided by the Swedish Pirate Party is nowadays provided by the Norwegian Pirate Party, and soon also by the Catalan Pirate Party," said Kenneth Peiruza, a spokesman for the Catalan group.

The Pirate Bay is one of the world's biggest free file-sharing websites, offering millions of users a forum for downloading music, movies and computer games. The site doesn't host any pirated material itself, but acts as an index to help people find files they can share with each other using BitTorrent software. The entertainment industry has failed to shut it down, even after its operators were convicted of copyright violations in Sweden in 2009.

Sara Lindback of the Rights Alliance said the case underlines how difficult it is to combat illegal file-sharing online, but suggested the fight against The Pirate Bay would continue.

"It's a step in the right direction that the service is driven out of Sweden," Lindback said. "But as long as the service is up we will do what we can to protect our rights-holders."

Pirate Party officials said the laws in Norway and Catalonia would make it hard for the entertainment industry to prevent them from offering web hosting services to The Pirate Bay.

By doing so, the parties are only acting as a "digital post office," said Geir Aaslid, leader of the Norwegian Pirate Party. "We're not responsible for the mail passing through the pipeline."

The Pirate Bay didn't comment on the move directly, but changed the name of the site temporarily to The Hydra Bay, an apparent reference to a mythological beast that grows two new heads when one head is cut off.

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## ★ NOW SHOWING ★



### Snitch

Friday 4:10 7:10 9:55  
Saturday 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:55  
Sunday 1:10 4:10 7:10  
Mon through Thurs 4:10 7:10

Cast: Dwayne Johnson, Benjamin Bratt, Barry Pepper  
Genre: Action • Rated PG 13

### Synopsis

Dwayne Johnson stars as a father who seeks revenge after his son is convicted of a crime he did not commit in this Lionsgate release from director Ric Roman Waugh. Susan Sarandon, Barry Pepper, and Benjamin Bratt head up the rest of the starring cast.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



### Escape From Planet Earth 3D

Friday 4:00 9:45  
Saturday 4:00 9:45  
Sunday 4:00  
Mon through Thurs 4:00

Cast: Brendan Fraser, Sarah Jessica Parker, Jessica Alba  
Genre: Animation, Adventure, Comedy • Rated PG

### Synopsis

Astronaut Scorch Supernova finds himself caught in a trap when he responds to an SOS from a notoriously dangerous alien planet.



### Escape From Planet Earth 2D

Friday 7:00  
Saturday 1:00 7:00  
Sunday 1:00 7:00  
Mon through Thurs 7:00

Cast: Brendan Fraser, Sarah Jessica Parker, Jessica Alba  
Genre: Animation, Adventure, Comedy • Rated PG



### Good Day To Die Hard

Friday 4:05 7:05 9:35  
Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:35  
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05  
Mon through Thurs 4:05 7:05

Cast: Bruce Willis, Cole Hauser, Jai Courtney  
Genre: Action • Rated R

### Synopsis

The story is set in Russia and begins with John McClane heading to Moscow to sweet talk some cops into letting his apparently-wayward son out of jail for something he did, but when he gets there, things surrounding his son's arrest are not as they appear and world-threatening terrorist hijinks ensue.



### Beautiful Creatures

Friday 4:30 7:30 10:00  
Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 10:00  
Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30  
Mon through Thurs 4:30 7:30

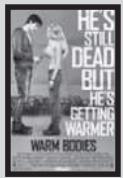
Cast: Emma Rossum, Emma Thompson, Jeremy Irons  
Genre: Romance, Fantasy • Rated PG 13



### Safe Haven

Friday 4:20 7:20 9:50  
Saturday 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:50  
Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:20  
Mon through Thurs 4:20 7:20

Cast: Julianne Hough, Josh Duhamel, David Lyons  
Genre: Romance • Rated PG 13



### Warm Bodies

Friday 4:15 7:15 9:30  
Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:30  
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15  
Mon through Thurs 4:15 7:15

Cast: Nicholas Hoult, Teresa Palmer, John Malkovich  
Genre: Romance, Horror • Rated PG 13



### Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters 3D

Friday 4:25 7:25 9:40  
Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:40  
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25  
Mon through Thurs 4:25 7:25

Cast: Jeremy Renner, Gemma Arterton, Famke Janssen  
Genre: Adventure • Rated R

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# Mindy McCready's funeral held in Florida

FORT MYERS, Fla. (AP)—As her music played in the background, country music star Mindy McCready was remembered Tuesday by friends and family as a fun and talented singer who also "wanted to be healed" from her past.

About 200 friends and family gathered in the 37-year-old singer's Florida hometown of Fort Myers. A large screen behind the altar of Crossroads Baptist Church was filled with her images and her portrait stood nearby.

"Our Mindy was so tired. She felt helpless," said McCready's mother, Gayle Inge. "She was in her darkest moment and she was hurt by so many allegations. She was too emotional to understand."

McCready, whose real name was Malinda Gayle McCready, committed suicide Feb. 17 at her home in Arkansas, days after leaving a court-ordered substance abuse treatment program. The mother of two died from a single gunshot to the head about a month after her longtime boyfriend David Wilson's death,



AP  
Michael Inge, stepfather of country music star Mindy McCready, plays a song during the funeral ceremony at the Crossroads Baptist Church in Fort Myers, Fla., Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2013.

also thought to be suicide, in the same place.

Inge acknowledged that her

daughter had faced many battles but now: "Her spirit found healing on the other side."

McCready's personal problems started in 2004 and included a custody battle with her mother over one of her sons. She was briefly hospitalized in 2010 after police responded to an overdose call to a home her mother owned in North Fort Myers, Fla., and she later appeared on "Celebrity Rehab with Dr. Drew," where she declared herself clean from drugs.

McCready's family declined to address any custody issue at the funeral.

"She wanted them to know that nothing, not even death, could separate her from them," Gayle Inge said of McCready's two sons, Zander Ryan and Zayne Christopher. "She's healed. She's no longer sick," she added, referring to what she told McCready's sons.

A separate funeral organized by her friends and the music community is tentatively scheduled for March 6 in Nashville, Tenn.

McCready's stepfather, brothers and cousin also shared their fondest—and often funny—memories of McCready.

## 'Breaking Bad' donates cast clothing to US shelter

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico (AP)—The hit television series "Breaking Bad," a show about the methamphetamine wars in Albuquerque, is helping the city's homeless—and giving fans a chance to own some memorabilia.

New Mexico's largest emergency shelter said the show recently donated boxes of clothing worn by cast members from past episodes that will be sold at the shelter's thrift store beginning Wednesday. Proceeds will go toward the Albuquerque

based shelter, said Joy Junction CEO Jeremy Reynolds.

Donated clothing also will give "Breaking Bad" fans an opportunity to buy pieces of show memorabilia, said Reynolds.

"Fans love the show, so it's just great that we can give some of them a lasting memory and while so doing help Joy Junction as well," he said.

The thrift store will be open seven days a week at the shelter but will not be selling clothing online. And it's not clear what the items for sale include.

"Breaking Bad" follows chemistry teacher Walter White, played by Bryan Cranston, producing and selling methamphetamine with a former student, Jesse Pinkman, played by Aaron Paul. The series is shot in Albuquerque and is shooting its final season.

Joy Junction currently is raising money for a new chapel, dormitory and women's center.

The thrift store isn't the only place fans of the show can purchase clothing from the popular show. The Candy

Lady store in Albuquerque's Old Town sells replicas of the "Heisenberg" hat, the black pork pie hat worn by Bryan Cranston's character when he's conducting drug business under his alias Heisenberg. The candy store also sells "Breaking Bad" T-shirts and blue meth rock candy.

"All this 'Breaking Bad' is selling like crazy," said owner Debbie Ball, who sells item online. "The show has really grabbed fans who want anything related to it."

## CHART TOPPERS

The top 10 songs and albums on the iTunes Store for the week ending Feb. 25, 2013:

### TOP SONGS

1. "Thrift Shop (feat. Wanz)," Ryan Lewis, Macklemore
2. "Harlem Shake," Baauer
3. "When I Was Your Man," Bruno Mars
4. "Stay (feat. Mikky Ekko)," Rihanna
5. "Started from the Bottom," Drake
6. "One Way or Another (Teenage Kicks)," One Direction
7. "Scream & Shout (feat. Britney Spears)," will.i.am
8. "Suit & Tie (feat. JAY-Z)," Justin Timberlake
9. "I Knew You Were Trouble," Taylor Swift
10. "Hey Porsche," Nelly

The top iPhone and iPad apps on App Store for the week ending Feb. 25, 2013:

### TOP PAID IPHONE APPS

1. WhatsApp Messenger (WhatsApp Inc.)
2. Minecraft - Pocket Edition (Mojang)
3. Clear Vision 2 (DP-FLASHES STUDIO)
4. Angry Birds Star Wars (Rovio Entertainment Ltd)
5. Clear Vision (17+) (FDG Entertainment)
6. Fruit Ninja (Halfbrick Studios)
7. Fionna Nights - Adventure Time (Cartoon Network)

### TOP FREE IPHONE APPS

1. 4 Pics 1 Word (LOTUM GmbH)
2. Plants vs. Zombies (PopCap)
3. Lazors (Pyrosphere)
4. Temple Run 2 (Imangi Studios, LLC)
5. YouTube (Google, Inc.)
6. Candy Crush Saga (King.com Limited)
7. Monsters, Inc. Run (Disney)
8. What's the Word? (Red-Spell)
9. Google Maps (Google, Inc.)
10. Facebook (Facebook, Inc.)

### TOP FREE IPAD APPS

1. Plants vs. Zombies HD (PopCap)
2. 4 Pics 1 Word (LOTUM GmbH)
3. Nick (Nickelodeon)
4. YouTube (Google, Inc.)
5. Temple Run 2 (Imangi Studios, LLC)
6. Monsters, Inc. Run (Disney)
7. Infinity Blade (Chair Entertainment Group, LLC)
8. Candy Crush Saga (King.com Limited)
9. Calculator for iPad Free (International Travel Weather Calculator)
10. Skype for iPad (Skype Communications S.r.l.)

### TOP ALBUMS

1. "Babel," Mumford & Sons
2. "Pitch Perfect (Original Motion Picture Soundtrack)," Various Artists
3. "Boys & Girls," Alabama Shakes

## Iran runs altered images of Michelle Obama gown

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iranian state media has run altered images of first lady Michelle Obama's Oscars appearance, making her gown look less revealing.

The first lady wore a sleeveless, scoop neck gown. The semi-official Fars news agency ran an altered photo that covered her shoulders and neckline with added material. State TV showed images that blurred the parts of her body that were exposed.

Under Iran's Islamic dress code, women are required to cover their bodies in public. Films showing foreign women without a headscarf are considered acceptable, but revealing clothes are forbidden.

For the Oscars ceremony, Michelle Obama at the White House joined Jack Nicholson via video link to help present the best picture prize for "Argo," a film based on the escape of six American hostages from the besieged U.S. Embassy in Tehran in 1979.

Fars said the first lady's announcement suggested that the film was made with U.S. government support. Iranian officials have dismissed "Argo" as a CIA commercial.

## One and done at Oscars for MacFarlane

NEW YORK (AP)—It looks like it's one and done at the Oscars for Seth MacFarlane.

The "Family Guy" creator was asked on his Twitter account whether he'd consider hosting the Academy Awards again and he replied: "No way. Lotta fun to have done it, though."

MacFarlane's edgy comedy proved a polarizing force on Sunday's Academy Awards, with jokes about domestic violence, women's bodies and Jews in Hollywood that offended some viewers. The Oscars did get their biggest audience in three years, however, with particular growth among young viewers.

MacFarlane's spokeswoman said Tuesday she had nothing to add to the tweet.

## New dad Nick Lachey to release a lullaby album

NEW YORK (AP)—First-time dad Nick Lachey knows all about rocking a baby to sleep. Now he wants to help other kids get their rest.

His new album, "A Father's Lullaby," will be released in a few weeks. It features 12 songs, including classics like "You Are My Sunshine" and "Brahms Lullaby." The album also features four original tracks that Lachey co-wrote, inspired by his own baby.

The 39-year-old singer and his wife, TV personality Vanessa Lachey, welcomed their son, Camden, last September.

"A Father's Lullaby" will be available on iTunes and Amazon on March 13. It will be in stores in April.

Lachey will release a new album, "2.0," in May with his group, 98 Degrees.



In this combination of photos made on Sunday, Feb. 24, 2013, first lady Michelle Obama, appearing via video link, and actor Jack Nicholson present the award for best picture during the Oscars ceremony at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. As seen in the bottom photo, the first lady wore a sleeveless, scoop neck gown for the occasion. The photo on top is an altered version that Iran's semi-official Fars news agency ran on their website, with her shoulders and neckline covered with added material to make her gown look less revealing. AP

## Bobby Brown sentenced to 55 days in jail for DUI

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Bobby Brown has been sentenced to 55 days in a Los Angeles jail and four years of probation for a drunken driving case.

City attorney's spokesman Frank Mateljan (mah-tell-JIN) says Brown was sentenced Tuesday after pleading no contest to charges he was under the influence and driving on a suspended license when he was arrested in October.

Brown was on probation for

another DUI case at the time.

The 44-year-old "New Edition" singer was ordered to report to jail March 20. He also was placed on four years of informal probation and will be required to complete an 18-month alcohol treatment program.

Brown's attorney Tiffany Feder had no immediate comment on the sentence.

The sentence was first reported by celebrity website TMZ.

## For 1st time since 1999, music revenues inch up

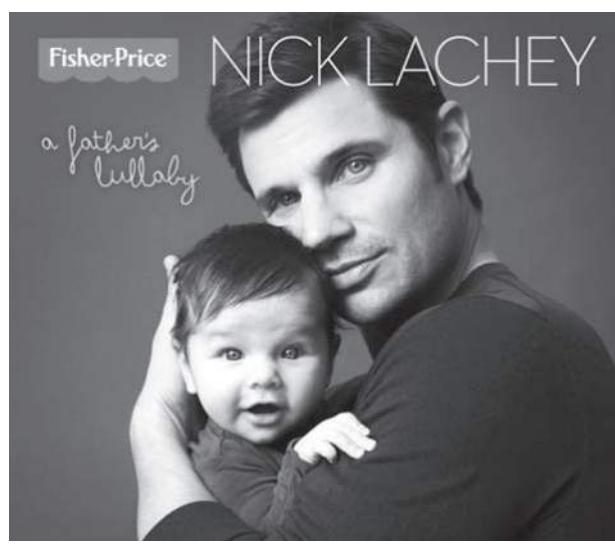
LONDON (AP)—More than a decade after online file swapping tipped the music industry into turmoil, record executives may finally be getting a sliver of good news.

Industry revenue is up. A measly 0.3 percent, but it's still up.

"We're on the path to recovery," said Frances Moore, whose International Federation of the Phonographic Industry put together the figures released in a report Tuesday. "There's a palpable buzz in the air."

In her forward to the IFPI report, Moore said the return to growth was a tribute to the transformation of the music industry, saying it had "adapted to the Internet world."

That change has been a long time coming. Online song sharing popularized by services such as Napster at the turn of the millennium seriously destabilized the industry, which reacted with a barrage of lawsuits and lobbying. But the war on piracy failed to stem the tide of free music, and by the time executives finally began making legal music available through download services such as Apple Inc.'s iTunes, the industry was in a free fall.



This publicity photo provided by Fisher-Price shows multi-platinum recording artist and new father, Nick Lachey's album cover for "A Father's Lullaby."

## Man begins to regret giving his ex-wife a place to stay

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**DEAR ABBY:** My ex-wife cheated on me five years ago. She ran off with a nonworking criminal type and has been bouncing from place to place with this bozo ever since.

When they and their 3-year-old became homeless two weeks ago, all of a sudden she showed up at my door shoeless and with their son in a diaper. She said her boyfriend was abusive and asked to stay with me until she finds a place. I agreed under the provision that she not see this guy.

I am a hard-working single father of two. I know my heart is two sizes too big for my own good sometimes, and I don't want to be taken advantage of. Abby, did I make the right choice? Or should I have told her she was not welcome and turned her and her son away?

I really feel I shouldn't have to help her, and she should rely on her loser boyfriend—who she has started seeing again. I need guidance and your expert advice. Am I an idiot?

CONFUSED

**DEAR CONFUSED:** You're not an idiot; you're a push-over. Your ex has already broken the agreement she made when you let her in. The situation is not going to get better; it will only become more complicated.

You have helped her for two weeks. Now it's time to direct her to a shelter that can help her get her life back together and give her son a stable home. Your responsibility for her welfare ended when she left you for another man.

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** I just finished reading the letter from "Cafe Crazy" (Jan. 4), about the woman changing the baby on the restaurant's table. You advised that she should have taken the baby to the ladies' room to change it on a changing table there, and if there wasn't one, there should be.

I am a stay-at-home father and many times have had to resort to an awkward changing table alternative to accomplish the task (though never a restaurant table) as there are very few changing tables in men's rooms. In these dynamic, diverse and changing economic times, the ability to stay home and raise my children has been awesome, and I would do it over again in a heartbeat. It has been hard, however, because society still assumes that raising children is a woman's job. Not only should there have been a changing table in the ladies' room, but also one in the men's room.

Abby, please help us proud papas to raise our children with the same facilities allowed the mommas of the world!

GRANT IN SUNNYVALE, CALIF.

**DEAR GRANT:** I apologize, and I'm glad to have the opportunity to not only help fathers everywhere to raise their children, but also to raise consciousness where it is needed.

Since the letter from "Cafe Crazy" was printed, I have heard from parents of both sexes, as far away as Denmark. Although some men's restrooms are equipped with changing tables, not all are—and they should be. Another solution is a "family" restroom; however, many establishments have neither the money nor the room to install a third one.

■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** Something has been bothering me and I'd like your opinion. If a group of people goes out to eat together, and no one wants to order dessert except one person, is it rude for that person to keep everyone else waiting and watching while he/she orders and eats the dessert?

CHECK, PLEASE

**DEAR CHECK, PLEASE:** It's not rude if you first ask the others in the group if they would mind, and they wanted to chat over coffee.

*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

*Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)*



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# Heat win 12th straight, outlast Kings in 2OT



MIAMI (AP)—Heat coach Erik Spoelstra summed up the efforts of LeBron James and Dwyane Wade in three words: “Video game numbers,” he said.

Both put up monster stat lines. And the Miami Heat needed them.

James scored 40 points and added a career-high 16 assists, Wade had 39 points, and the Heat pushed their winning streak to 12 games by outlasting the Sacramento Kings 141-129 in double overtime on Tuesday night.

“Some great stat lines tonight,” James said. “But I’m happy I was able to do what I did and help our team win.”

Great stat lines might be calling it an understatement. Consider:

■ A season high in scoring for James, who capped off the best shooting month of his career.

■ A season high in scoring for Wade, who tied a career best with 19 field goals.

■ A 36-point night for the Kings’ Marcus Thornton, the most by any non-starter in the NBA this season.

■ The 141 points tied a Heat franchise record, set in 1991.

■ Add James’ assists to the mix, and he put up the NBA’s first night of at least 40 points and 16 assists since April 1994. The man who did it then? None other than Phoenix guard Kevin Johnson, now, ironically enough, the mayor of Sacramento. And for February, James finished 139 for 217 from the floor, that 64.1 percent clip the best of his career for any month.

“It was a great atmosphere,” said Thornton, who made 11 of 18 shots, including 8 of 12 from 3-point range. “To be able to take that team to two overtimes just shows the testament of us growing. A team like that—championship team—they play great together. Obviously I hate losing but it was a great effort by us.”

Ray Allen added 21, Chris Bosh finished with 15 and Chris Andersen had 10 for the Heat, who remained six games clear of second-place Indiana in the Eastern Conference standings.

Miami’s 12-game winning streak is the longest in the NBA this season and matches the second-longest in franchise history.

Tyreke Evans scored 26 points for Sacramento. DeMarcus Cousins finished with 24 points and 15 rebounds, John Salmons added 15 and Isaiah Thomas 14 for the Kings, who lost their sixth straight.

“They’ve got a couple of guys that can turn the notch up pretty quickly,” Kings coach Keith Smart said. “LeBron and Dwyane played an incredible game. It took a Superman-type game from both of those guys.”

Smart said before the game that sometimes “great teams get a little bored with the regular



AP  
Miami Heat’s LeBron James (6), Dwyane Wade (3) and Chris Bosh (1) stand together during a break in the fourth quarter of their NBA basketball game against the Sacramento Kings, Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2013, in Miami.

season and they need something to get them going.”

The Heat didn’t seem to be bored by the second overtime.

After a late non-call that James wanted, he simply seemed mad.

James scored inside to open the second extra session, yelling “and one” at referees as his way of insisting he was fouled as well. But after one sensational sequence, the game was pretty much sealed.

Thornton had a chance to give the Kings the lead after a Heat turnover, but his shot at the rim was blocked by Wade, who came down and set up James for a 3-pointer—a five-point swing, in essence, and the Heat had a 131-127 lead. James scored again, then added two free throws and found Bosh for a dunk and 10-point lead with 1:29 remaining.

“It’s tough but this is a loss I consider a good loss,” Cousins said. “Our effort tonight was incredible. We come out and play like that every night, we can beat a lot of teams.”

Sacramento fell to 1-17 against Miami since March 2004.

James was perfect in the second overtime: 3-for-3 from the field, 4-for-4 from the line. He had more points (11-5), rebounds (3-0), and assists (3-1) in the final five minutes than the Kings had combined.

“No matter what their record is, they made plays just like us. They gave everything they had and more,” James said.

The Heat missed key free

throws late in both regulation and the first overtime - Wade missing a pair with 21 seconds left in the fourth, and James missed one of two with 29.3 seconds left in the opening extra session.

Those two free throws were the only ones Wade was awarded all night.

“I knew we came out a little flat and they came out so free,” Wade said. “So I told myself to be a little aggressive and kept us afloat a little bit. And in the overtime, LeBron got going a little bit. We kept going to him and he delivered.”

In the first OT, the Kings had a chance for the late lead and potentially the win, but Thomas had a layup blocked by Bosh, and Allen grabbed the rebound for the Heat with 5.7 seconds left.

Miami put the ball in Wade’s hands, and he found James near the basket. James’ shot missed, and he complained he was fouled by Salmons on the attempt. Referees disagreed with that, but after a lengthy review to determine possession, they awarded Miami the ball with 0.4 seconds remaining. It was much ado for nothing, as Bosh’s shot sailed long and the teams went to double overtime.

The game was tied at 92 midway through the fourth before Wade—with six points and an assist—led a 13-4 run that looked like it would give Miami breathing room. Miami was up 105-96, and still led 112-104 when James scored with 1:40

remaining.

Sacramento roared back, scoring the final eight points of regulation. Thornton hit a pair of 3-pointers, the second coming with 23 seconds left to get the Kings within 112-110. And after Wade missed a pair of free throws, Cousins grabbed an offensive rebound and laid it back with 8.5 seconds remaining to knot the game at 112-all.

Out of a timeout, the Heat went to Wade, whose step-back 20-footer bounced off the rim as time expired, sending it to overtime.

They were just getting started. And when it was over, the Heat streak survived.

“We’re coming together,” James said. “We’re doing it the right way. We’re executing offensively. We’re sharing the ball. And we’re not getting rattled. We’ve been in some crazy games. We just stay the course and figure out a way to get the victory.”

## Pacers 108, Warriors 97

In Indianapolis, David West had 28 points and seven rebounds, and the Indiana Pacers overcame the ejection of Roy Hibbert following a fourth-quarter scuffle to beat Golden State.

West also was called for a technical foul, along with the Warriors’ David Lee, Stephen Curry and Klay Thompson, for the altercation that began with 6:10 remaining in the game.

It began when Lee and Hibbert exchanged shoves under

the basket after a missed shot. Curry tried to push Hibbert away and was shoved to the court as the fight went from the key to the baseline.

George Hill had 23 points and seven assists, and Paul George had 21 points and 11 rebounds for the Pacers (36-21), who have won five straight.

Curry scored a season-high 38 points and Thompson had 13 for the Warriors (33-24), who had a three-game winning streak snapped.

## Clippers 106, Bobcats 84

Collison’s wild shot on a drive wasn’t close.

Nowitzki’s last 20-20 game was April 3, 2003, against the Los Angeles Lakers, when he had 25 points and 22 boards.

J.J. Redick, playing his second game in Dallas in six days but in a different uniform after he was traded from Orlando to Milwaukee, had 14 points and Mike Dunleavy added 13.

## Nets 101, Hornets 97

In New Orleans, Deron Williams scored 33 points, Brook Lopez added 20 while playing against his twin brother, Robin, and the Brooklyn Nets snapped a two-game skid.

Williams did not score for much of the second half, but drained a timely 3-pointer with 1:24 left, then added a fadeaway jumper, followed by six free throws in the final 18.7 seconds to seal it.

Keith Bogans added 12 points for Brooklyn, hitting all four of his shots, including three 3-pointers in the fourth quarter, when New Orleans nearly erased a deficit that had been as large as 22 points in the second quarter.

Greivis Vasquez scored 20 and Robin Lopez 14 for New Orleans, which has lost four of five.

## Cavaliers 101, Bulls 98

In Chicago, Dion Waiters scored 25 points to help make up for the absence of Kyrie Irving, and the Cleveland Cavaliers snapped an 11-game losing streak against the Chicago Bulls with a 101-98 victory on Tuesday night.

While Irving rested a sore right knee in street clothes on the sideline, Waiters converted a fadeaway jumper and a layup before Tyler Zeller drove along the baseline for a layup that helped Cleveland open an 87-78 lead with 7:33 left in the game.

The Bulls were down two when they got the ball back with 37 seconds left, but Luol Deng missed a long jumper.

Shaun Livingston, starting in place of Irving, finished with 15 points as improving Cleveland held on for its third win in the last four games, bouncing back from a difficult 109-105 loss at Miami on Sunday.

## Bucks 95, Mavericks 90

In Dallas, Monta Ellis scored 22 points and Milwaukee spoiled Dirk Nowitzki’s first game in nearly 10 years with at least 20 points and 20 rebounds.

Ellis twice put the Bucks ahead in the final 2 minutes, the last time on a jumper for a 92-90 lead with 1:03 remaining.

Nowitzki had 21 points and 20 rebounds for the Mavericks, who had two chances after Ellis’ go-ahead basket. Vince Carter missed a 3-pointer and Darren

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## Magic 98, 76ers 84

In Los Angeles, Blake Griffin scored 24 points, keying a decisive second-quarter burst that put the Clippers in command, and Los Angeles beat Charlotte to improve to 23-6 at home.

Matt Barnes added 17 points off the bench, Caron Butler had 16 points, DeAndre Jordan 13, and Chris Paul had 13 of the Clippers’ season-high 34 assists for their sixth win in seven games. The Bobcats managed just 17 assists.

Gerald Henderson tied his season high with 24 points and Kemba Walker had 15 points for the Bobcats, who have lost four straight and 12 of 14. The NBA’s worst team fell to 7-23 on the road.

## Magic 98, 76ers 84

In Philadelphia, Arron Afflalo and Tobias Harris scored 16 points apiece, and Orlando snapped a 10-game road losing streak.

Andrew Nicholson contributed 13 and Nikola Vucevic had 12 points and 19 rebounds for the Magic (16-41), who hadn’t won on the road since Jan. 12 against the Los Angeles Clippers.

E’Twaun Moore had 12 points and a career-high 10 assists, while Maurice Harkless had 10 points for the Magic.

The Magic won for just the seventh time all season on the road while also snapping a five-game skid overall.

The Sixers lost their sixth straight game, their longest streak in nearly three years.

## Suns 84, Timberwolves 83, OT

In Phoenix, Marcin Gortat hit big shots at the end of regulation and overtime, helping Phoenix end a three-game losing streak.

Gortat hit a runner with 13 seconds left in regulation to send the game to overtime and scored on a hard drive with 45 seconds left in the extra period.

Gortat, Wesley Johnson and Markieff Morris had 14 points apiece. Jermaine O’Neal added 10 points and 13 rebounds for the Suns, who ended a four-game home losing streak.

Derrick Williams had 21 points and 12 rebounds, Nikola Pekovic finished with 18 points and 12 rebounds, and J.J. Barea had 16 points for Minnesota, which rallied from a 13-point, fourth-quarter deficit to force overtime.

# Experts: Pistorius violated basic firearms rules

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—Even if Oscar Pistorius is acquitted of murder, firearms and legal experts in South Africa believe that, by his own account, the star athlete violated basic gun-handling regulations and exposed himself to a homicide charge by shooting into a closed door without knowing who was behind it.

Particularly jarring for firearms instructors and legal experts is that Pistorius testified that he shot at a closed toilet door, fearing but not knowing for certain that a nighttime intruder was on the other side. Instead of an intruder, Pistorius' girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp was in the toilet cubicle. Struck by three of four shots that Pistorius fired from a 9 mm pistol, she died within minutes. Prosecutors charged Pistorius with premeditated murder, saying the shooting followed an argument between the two. Pistorius said it was an accident.

South Africa has stringent laws regulating the use of lethal force for self-protection. In order to get a permit to own a firearm, applicants must not only know those rules but must demonstrate proficiency with the weapon and knowledge of its safe handling, making it far tougher to legally own a gun in South Africa than many other countries where a mere background check suffices.

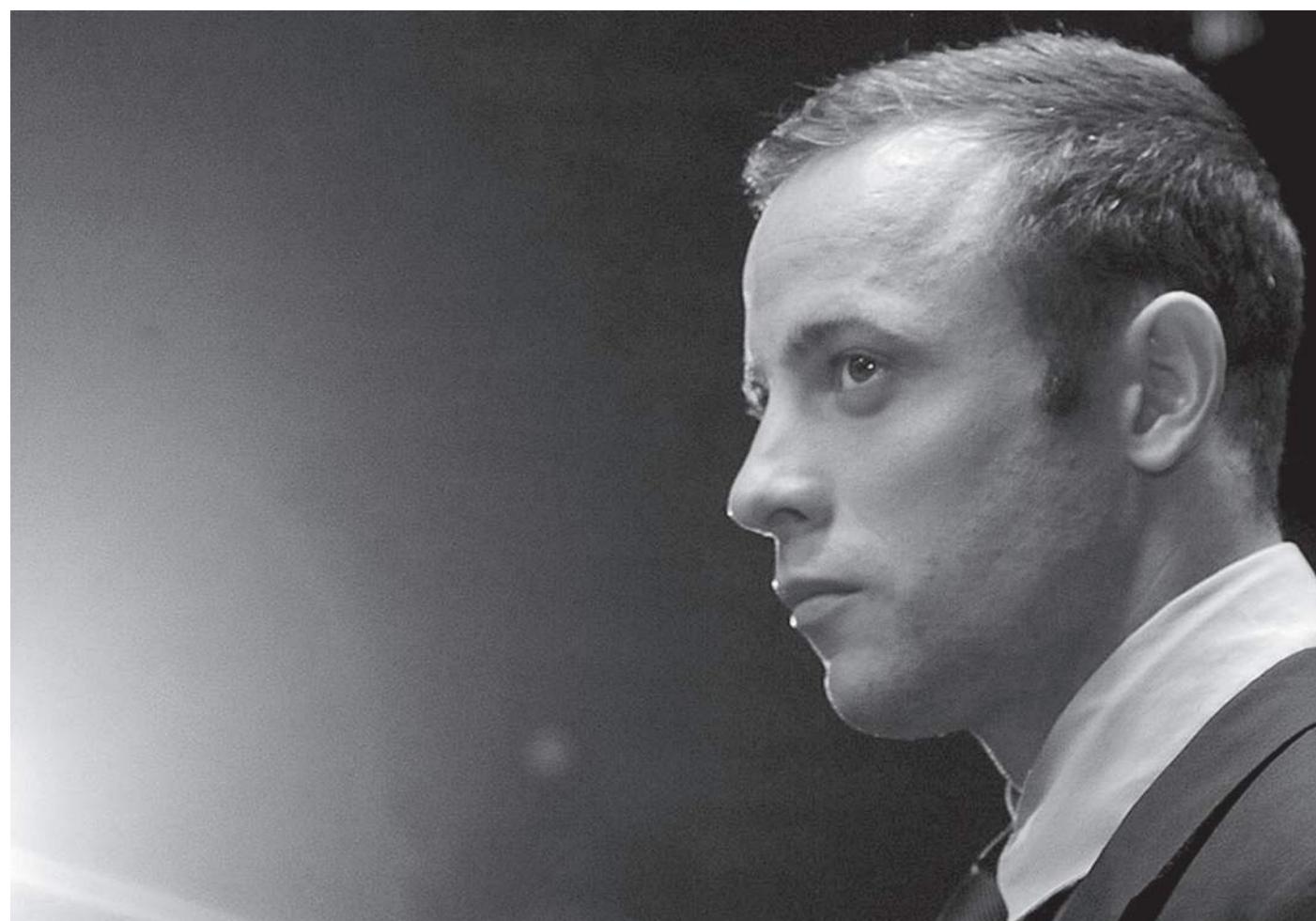
Pistorius took such a competency test for his 9 mm pistol and passed it, according to the South African Police Service's National Firearms Center. Pistorius' license for the 9 mm pistol was issued in September 2010. The Olympic athlete and Paralympic medalist should have known that firing blindly, instead of at a clearly identified target, violates basic gun-handling rules, firearms and legal experts said.

"You can't shoot through a closed door," said Andre Pretorius, president of the Professional Firearm Trainers Council, a regulatory body for South Africa.

**ORLANDO, Fla.** (AP)—The attorney for three NASCAR fans injured last weekend during a race the day before the Daytona 500 says they are exploring a possible lawsuit, but some experts say they could face tough obstacles in winning damages.

Matt Morgan, the Orlando-based lawyer for the fans, said at a news conference Tuesday that any suit would focus on the safety fence used along the track at Daytona International Speedway. He said he hopes to reach a settlement with NASCAR to avoid a lawsuit.

More than 30 people were injured last Saturday after a horrific wreck in a second-tier NASCAR series race sent chunks of debris, including a heavy tire, into the stands. Morgan declined to provide the identities of his clients, but said two of them were seated directly in front of



In this photo taken Friday, Feb. 22, 2013 Olympic athlete, Oscar Pistorius, in court in Pretoria, South Africa, for his bail hearing charged with the shooting death of his girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp. AP

can firearms instructors. "People who own guns and have been through the training, they know that shooting through a door is not going to go through South African law as an accident."

"There is no situation in South Africa that allows a person to shoot at a threat that is not identified," Pretorius added. "Firing multiple shots, it makes it that much worse. ... It could have been a minor—a 15-year-old kid, a 12-year-old kid—breaking in to get food."

The Pistorius family, through Arnold Pistorius, uncle of the runner, has said it is confident that the evidence will prove that Steenkamp's death in the pre-dawn hours of Feb. 14 was "a terrible and tragic accident."

In an affidavit to the magistrate who last Friday freed him on bail, Pistorius said he be-

lieved an intruder or intruders had gotten into his US\$560,000 ((EURO)430,000) two-story house, in a guarded and gated community with walls topped by electrified fencing east of the capital, Pretoria, and were inside the toilet cubicle in his bathroom. Believing he and Steenkamp "would be in grave danger" if they came out, "I fired shots at the toilet door" with the pistol that he slept with under his bed, he testified.

Criminal law experts said that even if the prosecution fails to prove premeditated murder, firing several shots through a closed door could bring a conviction for the lesser but still serious charge of culpable homicide, a South African equivalent of manslaughter covering unintentional deaths through negligence.

**FANS INJURED AT NASCAR RACE EXPLORE LEGAL OPTIONS**

NASCAR spokesman David Higdon wrote in a statement, "We are unaware of any law-suits filed."

Daytona International Speedway is owned by International Speedway Corp., a NASCAR sister company. Spokesman Andrew Booth said, "As per company policy, we do not comment on pending litigation."

Donnalynn Darling, a New York-based attorney who has been practicing personal injury law for 30 years, said there is a theory that a spectator who buys tickets to a sporting event assumes the risk of objects coming out of the field of play, such as a foul ball at a baseball game.

But she said there is also a foreseeable risk question that promoters of events also accept.

Johannesburg attorney Martin Hood, who specializes in firearm law, said South African legislation allows gun owners to use lethal force only if they believe they are facing an immediate, serious and direct attack or threat of attack that could either be deadly or cause grievous injury.

According to Pistorius' own sworn statement read in court, he "did not meet those criteria," said Hood, who is also the spokesman for the South African Gun Owners' Association.

"If he fired through a closed door, there was no threat to him. It's as simple as that," he added. "He can't prove an attack on his life ... In my opinion, at the very least, he is guilty of culpable homicide."

The Associated Press emailed a request for comment to Vuma,

a South African reputation management firm hired by the Pistorius family to handle media questions about the shooting.

The firm replied: "Due to the legal sensitivities around the matter, we cannot at this stage answer any of your questions as it might have legal implications for a case that still has to be tried in a court of law." Vuma said on Monday it referred the AP's questions to Pistorius' legal team, which by Tuesday had not replied.

Culpable homicide covers unintentional deaths ranging from accidents with no negligence, like a motorist whose brakes fail, killing another road user, "to where it verges on murder or where it almost becomes intentional," said Hood. Sentences—ranging from fines to prison—are left to courts to

determine and are not set by fixed guidelines.

The tough standards for legally acquiring a gun were instituted in part because of a wave of weapons purchases after the end of racist white rule in 1994, said Rick De Caris, a former legal director in the South African police. Under South Africa's white-minority apartheid regime, gun owners often learned how to handle firearms during military service. Many of the new gun owners had little or no firearms training, which brought tragic results, De Caris said.

"People were literally shooting themselves when cleaning a firearm," said De Caris, who helped draft the Firearms Control Act of 2000.

Prospective gun owners must now take written exams that include questions on the law, have to show they can safely handle and shoot a gun and are required to hit a target the size of a glossy magazine in 10 of 10 shots from seven meters (23 feet), said Pretorius of the Professional Firearm Trainers Council.

In his affidavit, Pistorius said he wasn't wearing his prosthetic limbs "and felt extremely vulnerable" after hearing noise from the toilet.

"I grabbed my 9 mm pistol from underneath my bed. On my way to the bathroom, I screamed words to the effect for him/them to get out of my house and for Reeva to phone the police. It was pitch-dark in the bedroom and I thought Reeva was in bed," he testified.

Legal experts said they are puzzled why Pistorius apparently didn't first fire a warning shot to show the supposed intruder he was armed. Also unanswered is why, after he heard noise in his bathroom that includes the toilet cubicle, Pistorius still went toward the bathroom—toward the perceived danger—rather than retreat back into his bedroom.

"He should have tried to get out of the situation," said Hood, the attorney.

**SCAR'S RACETRACK IN TALLADEGA, ALA.** In which a car that launched into the catch fence sent debris into the stands and injured several fans.

"At that point in time a group of engineers got together and they said 'It's time for us to manufacture a safer fence,'" Morgan said. "To my knowledge, that was done. But what we have to investigate at this point in time is what was done... If you can ever point to monetary considerations being put ahead of people, then there's a big problem."

Darling predicted that NASCAR would try to settle with the injured fans.

NASCAR "had an obligation to protect the fans that are so loyal, and it is bad from a public relations standpoint," Darling said. "So they're going to do something."

**GARDNER**

From Page 28

XTERRA Philippines will be the gauge of his preparation for the Xterra Asian Tour, which will conclude in Guam on March 23.

**CNMI**

From Page 28

match against the Bengal Tigers than their first game versus host Nepal this Saturday. However, though they are facing a more difficult game against Bangladesh, the CNMI is hoping to capitalize on the injury plagued

"We will see in the Philippines how far behind I am, and I'll be going faster on Saipan I'm sure," said Garner, who only competed in a few races last year, including Xterra US and Xterra World where he placed 10th and 21st, respectively.

After the Xterra World in

Hawaii in October, Gardner took a short break and then resumed his training for Xterra Asian Tour early this year.

"I have been injured for running for five weeks and not running at all. My swimming and biking are super strong though," said Gardner, who is looking

forward to meeting his daughter at the finish line of Xterra Saipan.

"If I win, I have to dedicate it to Susan for putting up with my racing and traveling for so long. I'd love to cross the line carrying Abi though, whether I win or not," he added.

**Bengal Tigers.**

Jershwin Angeles, who is part of the coaching staff that trained the Blue Ayuyus on Saipan since September, said FIFA ranked No. 168 Bangladesh is missing several key players for the qualifier. Angeles is talking of veteran striker Zahid Hasan Emily, winger Zahid Hossain, defender Rezaul Karim, and

goalkeeper Mustaqur Rahman, who were excluded on the Bengal Tigers' 23-player roster due to various injuries.

Kruif admitted that the absence of the four players, who are among the top pros in the Bangladesh league, is a big blow and the Bengal Tigers will now rely on some newcomers and veteran midfielder and cap-

**tain Mohammad Sujan.**

Sujan despite the absence of their key players believe they still have strong team and have a good chance of advancing to the finals, while Kruif said Bangladesh's will have a hard time against Palestine and must be cautious against the CNMI.

"Nobody knows anything

in next and both drove in a run after which Ben Flores capitalized on an ensuing free pass for Tim Cruz with an RBI double to put the team ahead, 5-2.

They then worked out another base on balls that ultimately set the stage for a two-RBI single by Wilson before the D-9ers could get out of dodge.

The Angels added another run in the bottom of the second inning to venture in front, 8-2, as hit batsmen Tomokane was singled in by Nick Cruz. Though the D-9ers mustered a run in the third and fourth frames, they were stifled by a four-run aftershock by the Angels in the bottom of the fifth inning.

D-9ers' Isaiah Lizama and E.J. Tenorio hooked up with a pair of hits in the third exchange, bringing the former to the dish, and Dave Camacho singled on in the fourth and scored off a couple of errors after swiping second base.

However, the Angels struck them down once again with a wave of five hits in the fifth, which included a pair of RBI triples by Jesse Yamagishi and Kevin Villagomez followed up with a pair of RBI base knocks for Tomokane and Gary Cruz that jolted them ahead, 12-4.

Angels' Franco Flores came in to relieve starter Bill Camacho at the start of the sixth inning and he struck out five of the first six batters he faced.

St. Michael's tossed on its final run in the sixth inning on a sacrifice fly and only suffered a minor blip on defense in the top of the eighth inning before Flores dealt a swift three-up and three-down finish.

He secured the save giving up two runs, zero earned, off two hits and a hit by pitch with eight strikeouts through four innings.

Winning pitcher Camacho gave up four runs, one earned, off seven hits, a walk, and a hit by pitch with four strikeouts through five frames.

Angels' Tomokane (1-for-3) logged two RBIs, three runs, two stolen bases, and a hit by pitch; Ben Flores batted 2-for-2 with a run and two stolen bases. Ben Taisacan went 2-for-3 with an RBI, a run, and two stolen bases. D-9ers' Rocco Reyes swung 2-for-3 with a run and a hit by pitch.

**Brewers 15, D-9ers 5**

The Brewers weaseled out three early runs in the top of the second inning off just one hit.

Roy Celis drew a leadoff walk and broke the ice off an infield error that followed a pair of early outs by the D-9ers' defense.

As Celis broke for home Tyrone Omar hustled his way on the path and was later driven to the plate by Diego Camacho.

Ton Guerrero represented the third run, also completing the lap as the D-9ers experienced some additional defensive blunders.

D-9ers' E.J. Tenorio and Vince Castro later linked together a couple of base smashes in the bottom side, scoring the former, but the team did not help itself out any on the field and permitted the Brew Crew to move in front, 5-1, in the ensuing frame.

The runs came in primarily as a result of both sketchy pitching and some inopportune slip-up up the middle.

The D-9ers showed signs of revival and got a run back in the bottom of the third inning thanks to a leadoff triple by Isaiah Lizama who was escorted home moments later off a base knock to right field by Ian Lizama.

The Brewers responded in the top of the fourth frame with a leadoff triple and double by Diego Camacho and

**Volunteers needed**

Meanwhile, organizers of Xterra Saipan are looking for volunteers. Interested individuals are asked to contact Bobbi Grizzard via email bobbi.grizzard@gmail.com or call 483-9464 for more information.

"It's a great way to be involved and see what's happening, who's running, who's biking, who's ahead, who's not. You will see the pros. You will see Saipan's best athletes. You will see your friends," Grizzard wrote in an email sent to NMITF members.

**ANGELS**

From Page 28

to a win and a loss and is snuggly situated behind second-ranked Brewers, which improved to a slate of 2-1 and reigning champion Saipan Stevedore Northern Yankees (3-0).

The IT&E Fielders (0-1) file in at the fourth position ahead of the reeling D-9ers who are still in search of a win after three tries. The season continues at Tan Ko Field tonight at 6:30pm.

**Angels 13, D-9ers 6**

The Angels answered a couple of early scores by the D-9ers in the first inning with a seven-run chunk in the bottom frame built off four hits and three walks spread out amid a few untimely errors.

Its first three batters reached on a leadoff walk followed with a base rip by John Reyes and an error that put Peter Tomokane aboard and brought Jon Wilson around.

Nunu Kapileo then tied the count at two apiece with a sacrifice fly that scored Reyes, and with two outs left in the side the Angels were far from finished.

Gary and Nick Cruz stepped

in next and both drove in a run after which Ben Flores capitalized on an ensuing free pass for Tim Cruz with an RBI double to put the team ahead, 5-2.

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The Brewers responded in the top of the fourth frame with a leadoff triple and double by Diego Camacho and

Jun Rabauliman, but the D-9ers battled back to within a run in the bottom frame.

They pulled on a three-run string off four hits, which included an RBI single for Robert Tudela and a two-RBI base hit by Ian Lizama that cleared the bases.

The Brewers buckled down on defense and manufactured a run in the top of the fifth off a two-out triple by Ton Guerrero who was immediately delivered to the plate by Jared Sablan via a base poke and the team marched on, 9-5, in the top of the sixth inning off three hits. Clifton Salil busted a two-RBI base smash, scoring Nokki Saralu and Mike Pangelinan.

Brewers closer Vince Cepeda stepped on the hump at the start of the bottom frame and shut down the opposition, striking out eight out of the nine batters he faced for an efficient display of control and velocity as his teammates cranked out the six runs need for the early decision in the seventh and eighth frames.

Starting off the seventh at the top of the order, Brewers' Guerrero and Sablan proved true once again with a couple of

hits that brought home the former after which Saralu drove in Sablan with a shot to left field. Pangelinan singled his way on and around for the final run of the exchange.

The Brewers' meat of the lineup continued to put the ball in play and dealt the proverbial knockout blow in the top of the eighth inning.

Guerrero hustled out an error and scored for the fourth time in the game off a singled by Sablan who came in shortly after off a line drive to center field by Manny Sablan. The latter later scored off an RBI walk.

Winning pitcher Tom Camacho gave up five earned runs off seven hits and two hit by pitch with seven strikeouts through five frames of work.

Jared Sablan batted 2-for-2 with three RBIs and two runs with a hit by pitch. Saralu swung 3-for-3 with an RBI, two runs, three base on balls, and a stolen base. Guerrero (2-for-5) tallied four runs, a stolen base and a base on balls. Diego Camacho went 2-for-2 with an RBI, a run, and a base on balls. D-9ers' Ian Lizama batted 2-for-4 with three RBIs and two stolen bases. Castro swung 2-for-3 with an RBI and a run.

**ANGIE'S**

From Page 28

that gave the R-Rebels a 29-11 margin from the tip.

They went on to establish a promising 48-28 cushion at the break as its initial producers remained on the court and cashed in at will along with Frank Mettao. The trio accounted for all but 1 of their team's total output in the second quarter.

Docomo did not back down however, and clawed back to within two possessions, 55-59, heading into crunch time thanks largely to Sheen Metran whose 12 points led the rally cry.

In the end, R-Rebels kept its cool in the payoff period and tactically wore down its winded rivals Docomo in the final 10 minutes.

Deleon Guerrero-Diaz and point guard Edwin Camacho hooked up for 17 points to help thwart Docomo's comeback attempt in the fourth quarter.

Deleon Guerrero-Diaz topped the box score with a hefty 29 points that outshone Metran's bot-

tom line of 25 on the short end.

**Angie's Boys 86, Yuman Construction 78**

Back on Feb. 18, Angie's Boys carved out a slight edge in the first quarter, 21-17, and widened it to a 43-35 advantage at the half.

Eugene Manglona led the team out of the gate with 7 points and Angelo Fernando grabbed the wheel through the second frame for 8 markers.

Bryan Ajoste willed in a dozen for Yuman, but received meager support aside from a trio of three-balls by Jason Bahillo.

Angie's Boys then rifled ahead, 67-51, in the third quarter as Manglona added another 8 points that were complemented by a pair of treys, and they held strong in the clutch though Yuman postured a late comeback attempt.

Fernando would not let Angie's Boys crack in the last stand and tallied 9 points, 5 of which came from the line to help ice the match.

He and Manglona combined for 45 points with the latter earning top scoring honors with 24.

Yuman's Andy Mortos scram-

bled for 23 under duress.

The Angie's Boys duo outscored Yuman's top duo of Mortos and Ajoste by only 1 point, but fortunately received a dual effort of 31 from Wilfredo Francisco and Herbert Maranan.

**R-Rebels 77, Insiders 66**

In the late feature, R-Rebels broke out to an early 21-12 lead by receiving output from a handful of players and stretched it to a healthy 40-27 advantage at halftime.

Y.J. Nakayama led the team in the second period with 6 points, though Shane Deleon Guerrero-Diaz and Fred Litulumar carried the bulk through the midpoint with 10 markers apiece.

R-Rebels maintained control after the pause, 62-48, and had little trouble closing up shop. Nakayama and Deleon Guerrero-Diaz each buried a 3-pointer in the third quarter and the latter struck again from behind the arc for 6 points in the final period.

Deleon Guerrero-Diaz finished with a game-high 21 points, while Insiders' Bernardo

Montano managed 17 in defeat.

**Angie's Boys 91, Rollers 74**

Coming into the Feb. 15 continuation match, Angie's Boys managed a slim 17-16 lead in the opening canto before breaking out to a strong 45-30 halftime favor.

Much like its strategy against Yuman, Angie's Boys' Eugene Manglona led the group from the get-go with 6 points and his point man Angelo Fernando led the second quarter charge with a nice 10-point chunk.

Ham Hambros and Prince Factor hooked up for 18 points in an effort to keep their Rollers within range, but things began to look glum for the team heading into the final exchange as Angie's Boys trudged further in front, 67-48, in the third period.

Instead of trying to make a defensive stand in the third verse, the Rollers hastily began chucking up 3-pointers in hope of igniting a rally, but its deficit grew despite cashing in on four long-range strikes.

Angie's Boys dictated the ac-

tion in the fourth quarter before the untimely suspension, but managed to build a large enough lead to hold off the Rollers upon recommencement.

The Rollers did not lay down in the remaining six minutes last Feb. 15, but Angie's Boys sank five pressure-packed free throws late in the game to secure the victory.

Three of them came from Manglona who led all scorers with 25 points, while Hambros turned in a team-high of 19 for the Rollers.

**SUNDAY**

**R-Rebels 86 – Deleon Guerrero-Diaz 29, Mettao 21, Norita 16, Camacho 11, Nakayama 11, Litulumar 8, Mettao 8, Nawaz 2.**

**Insiders 66 – Montano 17, Wood 14, Deleon 11, Dayrit 6, Iglesias 6, Rivera 6, Mateo 2, Yanto 2, Quiambao 1, Loste 1.**

**Scoring by quarters:** 21-12, 43-35, 67-51, 86-78.

**Second Game**

**R-Rebels 77 – Deleon Guerrero-Diaz 21, Norita 16, Camacho 11, Nakayama 11, Litulumar 8, Mettao 8, Nawaz 2.**

**Insiders 66 – Montano 17, Wood 14, Deleon 11, Dayrit 6, Iglesias 6, Rivera 6, Mateo 2, Yanto 2, Quiambao 1, Loste 1.**

# Manta Rays on track for another sweep in varsity hoops

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND  
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REPORTER



Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization reigning boys varsity basketball champion Saipan Southern High School Manta Rays are in prime position to catalog a repeat sweep as it heads into this weekend's double-elimination varsity postseason with its flawless record still intact.

SSHS tore through the Mount Carmel School Knights (1-7) last Thursday, 125-52, and was gifted its eighth victory in the regular season by the Kagman High School Ayuyus (4-4) via forfeit in Tuesday's final regular season pairings.

In other varsity results, the second place Marianas High School Dolphins (6-2) survived the Knights this past Monday, 78-58. Eucon International School's Blazers (1-7) complete the field.

In junior varsity play, second-ranked SSHS (5-3) made light work of winless Saipan International School Geckos (0-6) last Thursday, 47-25, and barely warded off a huge fourth quarter rally by KHS (2-5), 28-26, on Tuesday, while first place MHS Dolphins (8-0) finished its run undefeated with a 54-23 rout over SIS on Monday. Agape Christian School's Torchbearers (4-4) complete the field.

And finally in the freshmen division, KHS (2-2) prevailed over SSHS (1-3), 33-23, on Tuesday to finish as the middle child among the grouping's three teams in between frontrunner MHS (3-1) and SSHS.

MISO's varsity playoffs will take place this Friday and Saturday at the MHS Gymnasium and will include both the Rota High School Bucks and the Tinian High School Stallions.

In Tuesday's junior pairing, SSHS worked out a 7-3 advantage in the opening 10 minutes before taking an 18-6 lead in the second quarter.

Tyler Palacios led the bunch in the first exchange with 5 markers and closed out the second period with 4 more that supported Jerwin Raquepo's 6.

After being stuffed with just four free throws and one basket in the first half, KHS' offense stalled again in the third quarter and allowed the Manta Rays to journey further ahead, 24-10, heading into the last stand, but the latter awoke in the clutch and postured a legit run from behind.



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND  
Saipan Southern High School Manta Rays' Mark Reyes, second left, sneaks a shot past Kagman High School Ayuyu's Andrew Salas during their MISO boys junior varsity basketball pairing Tuesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Ayuyus contained SSHS to just two baskets in the final 10 minutes of regulation only to come up just a couple of points shy of forcing overtime, but showed in the end that it had the ability to spread the ball around on the offensive end after all.

Andrew Salas led four other late contributors with 6 points in what turned out to be a nail-biter.

He finished with a team-high 8 points, while SSHS' Palacios set the bar with 13.

In the freshmen feature, KHS' Joseph Taitano got a couple of shots to drop in the first period for an early 6-4 favor and added three more buckets in the second quarter that helped his team pull away, 18-6, at intermission.

He received some help from Michael Muna in the third quarter in the form of 5 markers that kept KHS comfortably in the driver's seat, 25-12, heading into the final 10 minutes and the Ayuyus managed to trade baskets with its opponents as time wended down.

Taitano was held to one basket in the second half though his 12 points still one-upped Muna in the end. Art Borromeo fronted SSHS with 7 points.

In Monday's varsity tiff, MHS nosed out to an early 19-17 lead in

the opening frame built off 13 points sewn together by Joseph Aguilar and Erik Dela Rosa.

The Dolphins then extended its lead to 34-27 at the pause as Leo Cristobal came off the bench and paced the group with 6 markers.

MCS' John Gilbert Saludez willed in 15 points in the first half to help keep the Knights in contention and then led a big third quarter charge that chopped the Knights' deficit to a point, 52-53, heading into the closing period.

MCS rang in five long range strikes in the burst, three of which came from Saludez whose 12 points helped breath new life into the group. However, in the end the Knights only had enough juice to make the Dolphins sweat a little bit as the latter reclaimed control of the match only a few minutes to the fourth quarter.

MCS puttered out and was contained to just three buckets in the clutch, while MHS ran away in the end with a 25-point response that consisted of seven backers.

MCS' Saludez gave his all and in many ways stole the show, even in defeat. He finished with an impressive 31 points that overshadowed Dela Rosa's team-high of 24 for the Dolphins.

In the junior match, the Geckos

clung to an early 8-4 head start from the tip, but it evaporated quickly in the second frame as Shane Deleon Guerrero-Diaz took over the period, tallying 11 points that slingshot MHS in front, 20-14, at the half.

SIS was then limited to just three markers in the third period as MHS pulled away, 35-17, and the latter coasted to an easy win in the final exchange.

Deleon Guerrero-Diaz led nine contributors with 13 points, while Yong Hwang Kim led four SIS players with 10.

SSHS' varsity Manta Rays were all business last Thursday and swiftly hemmed up the Knights, 31-15, in the opening 10 minutes.

Jaymark De Guzman led a well-balanced attack with 9 points that were complemented by 6 points apiece from Joshua Andrews, Emerson Feria, and Edilberto Javier III.

SSHS then inflated its lead to 54-25 at halftime as Feria led four Manta Rays with 8 points in the second quarter. MCS' John Gilbert Saludez managed 12 points through the first two frames, but received meager support from his crew and things went from bad to worse for the Knights after the pause.

MCS faded from SSHS' rear-view early in the third quarter as the latter cannoned ahead, 85-34, heading into the last 10 minutes of regulation and cruised to an easy win.

The Manta Rays held Saludez to one basket in the third quarter as it uncorked a 31-point explosion on the other end led by Jack Aranda, Andrews, and De Guzman who accounted for 19 points that represented the bulk of the knockout blow.

De Guzman's hand remained hot in the closing period as he splashed

in three treys for 11 points that gift-wrapped the victory and finished with a game-high 27 points, while MCS' Saludez managed 22 in constraint.

In the junior division contest, Shawn Acopiado and Tyler Palacios pulled the chord for SSHS in the first half with 6 points apiece that helped provide a posh, 18-10, halftime cushion.

The Manta Rays then held the Geckos scoreless in the third quarter as it motored further ahead, 31-10, heading into the closing period and managed to match SIS' output in the fourth quarter.

Palacios led the third quarter uprising with 6 points and sprinkled 4 more on top of his game-high 18 in garbage time as he helped get some

teammates involved in the action. SIS' Chris Cepeda scrambled for 11 in the shortcoming.

## TUESDAY JUNIOR VARSITY

SSHS 28 – Palacios 13, Raquepo 6, Kintaro 4, Acopiado 2, Reyes 2, Ferrer 1.

KHS 26 – Salas 8, Evangelista 5, Sakisat 5, Mafnas 4, Faisao 2, Racadio 2.

Scoring by quarters: 7-3, 18-6, 24-10, 28-26.

## FRESHMEN

KHS 33 – Taitano 12, Muna 11, Reitan 6, Aaron 2, Ada 2.

SSHS 23 – Borromeo 7, Deleon Guerrero 6, Tekopua 4, Sto. Domingo 4, Espinosa 2.

Scoring by quarters: 6-4, 18-6, 25-12, 33-23.

## MONDAY VARSITY

MHS 78 – Dela Rosa 24, Darag 10, Cristobal 10, Apolinar 8, Macahito 8, Aguilar 7, Ano 5, Mancao 4, Suarez 2.

MCS 58 – Saludez 31, Taguchi 13, Yamagata 6, Amog 4, Camacho 2, Hyun-Son 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-17, 34-27, 53-52, 78-58.

## JUNIOR VARSITY

MHS 54 – Deleon Guerrero-Diaz 13, Admana 9, Arciagia 5, De Guzman 5, Benavente 4, Francisco 4, Mendoza 4, Ringor 4, Cayading 3, Manalili 3.

SIS 23 – Y. Kim 10, Johnson 6, Cepeda 3, H. Kim 2, Ramsey 2.

Scoring by quarters: 4-8, 20-14, 35-17, 54-23, 54-23.

## THURSDAY VARSITY

SSHS 125 – De Guzman 27, Andrews 21, Feria 18, Javier III 14, Villagomez 14, Aranda 12, Salem 11, Alegre 6, Villanueva 2.

MCS 52 – Saludez 22, Camacho 7, Hyun-Son 7, Yamagata 6, Taguchi 5, Amog 3, Ogasawara 2.

Scoring by quarters: 31-15, 54-25, 85-34, 125-52.

## JUNIOR VARSITY

SSHS 47 – Palacios 18, Acopiado 8, Kintaro 5, Raquepo 4, Ferrer 3, Reyes 3, Aldan 2, Castro 2, Lin 2.

SIS 25 – C. Cepeda 11, H. Kim 6, Johnson 2, N. Kim 2, Y. Kim 2, A. Cepeda 2.

Scoring by quarters: 8-2, 18-10, 31-10, 47-25.

# Hocog is Amigo ace for February



Diding Hocog won Amigo Golf Club's February Ace of the Month Tournament after turning back all comers last Sunday, Feb. 24, at the Kingfisher Golf Links in Talafofo.

Hocog came into the tournament three strokes behind top qualifier Felix Sasamoto, but saved her best for last with a net score of 67, which was built around a gross score of 91.

With her 72 in the qualifier last Feb. 10, Hocog wound up with a two-round net score total of 139 to beat Sasamoto by a couple of strokes.

Sasamoto, meanwhile, could not maintain his lead and settled for second place with a total net score of 141. He inked a front gross of 47 in the front nine and a

45 at the back for a 92 gross and a net of 72. The spearfishing legend scored a 69 in the qualifier.

Doll Yamagishi came in third with a total net score of 144. She shot a 49 at the front and 45 at the back for a gross total of 84. With her 23 handicap, Yamagishi came away with a net of 71.

Other two-round net scores were John Guerrero, 145; Lorraine Babauta, Ben Jones Sr. and Dan Quitugua, all finished with net scores of 149; John Matsumoto, 150; and Dr. Hocog with 163.

Amigo Golf Club officials are informing all members that the March qualifying tournament is set for this Sunday, March 3, also at the Kingfisher Golf Links. Showtime is 11:30am and tee time at 12 noon. (AGC)

# Pacific Games golf trials start March 9

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



The qualifying golf tournaments for the 2015 Pacific Games will begin on March 9 at Corral Ocean Point.

Coordinator Jess Wabol said the five-leg qualifiers are open to players from all golf associations in the CNMI.

"We are hoping to get as many golfers as we can, as the qualifiers will also serve as fundraisers for the CNMI Team that will compete in the 2015 Pacific Games," said Wabol, adding that each player will

be asked to pay a \$10 tournament fee in every qualifier.

The 2015 Pacific Games will be held in Papua New Guinea from July 4 to 18 and Wabol said they are looking to have five to six players on the CNMI Golf Team.

"You need at least four players to compete in the team event and we may get a maximum of six players, depending on the availability of funds. We will also be doing other fundraisers in the next two years, as we don't know if there will be financial assistance coming from the government," Wabol said.

Check-in time for the first leg of the qualifiers is set for 10am, while tee off is at 11am. The next two legs will then

be held on the west and east courses of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort, while the fourth and fifth will take place at the Kingfisher Golf Links and Marianas Country Club, respectively. Dates for the last four qualifiers will be announced later.

Scores will be compiled after the five qualifying tournaments to determine the rankings of the players and select the members of the CNMI Team.

The Commonwealth competed in the golf event of the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia, but only joined the singles tournament, as Wabol sustained a back injury during a practice round, leaving the CNMI Team with only three players in Jeff Taylor, Adam Hardwicke, and Tony Satur.



Heat win 12th straight, outlast Kings in 2OT

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# Gardner wants to go out on top

By ROSELYN B. MONROY  
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REPORTER

United Kingdom's Sam Gardner wishes to win the XTERRA Saipan Championships anew before he retires.

"If there's one race I would love to win again before I retire it's XTERRA Saipan," said Gardner in an email to *Saipan Tribune* last week.

Though the 27-year-old triathlete did not say when he is calling it quits, retirement bea-

cons, as he has been slowing down the past two years because he is dividing his time with work, family, and training.

"Having a full-time job as a firefighter and also running a small business and looking after our lovely baby, it is hard for me

to train like the other guys," said Gardner, who will be up against fellow former winner Olivier Marceau, defending champion Ben Allen, and three other competitive pros in next month's XTERRA Saipan.

Gardner held the XTERRA Saipan men's title for three straight years (2009 to 2011),



ROSELYN B. MONROY  
Sam Gardner celebrates his victory in the 2011 XTERRA Saipan Championship.

## CNMI braces for Bangladesh's Euro game



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
CNMI Men's National Team members jog around the Nepal Army Physical Training Centre oval in Nepal last Tuesday during a training session.

By ROSELYN B. MONROY  
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REPORTER

The CNMI Men's National Team will get its first taste of European-style game when it faces Bangladesh on March 4 in the Asian Football Confederation 2014 Challenge Cup Qualifiers in Kathmandu, Nepal.

"Bangladesh plays European-style football and is coached by a European. They are also very skilled so they are a huge challenge for us," Blue Ayuyus goalkeeper Johann Noetzel said last week before the team left Saipan.

Europe's brand of football involves more

physical games, tighter defense that limits space for movement, and more team plays that rely on direct passing between players. This European approach will continue to be implemented at the Bengal Tigers' camp after they got a new coach in Dutch Lodewijk de Kruif. The former pro who played for TOP Oss in the Netherlands in the early '90s took over the coaching reigns for Bangladesh from former national player Saiful Bari Titu just last month.

With Bangladesh's European-style play, the debuting Blue Ayuyus are expecting a tougher

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By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND  
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REPORTER

The St. Michael's Medical Response Angels and the Tan Holdings Brewers each wiped the floor clean off the Sen. Ray Yumul D-9ers as the Saipan Major League continued last Monday and Friday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Angels held on to an early lead to down the D-9ers, 13-6, on Monday, while the Brewers defeated the D-9ers, 15-5, in eight innings last Friday.

St. Michael's evened its card

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## Angels, Brewers bury D-9ers



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND  
St. Michael's Medical Response-Angels' Ben Flores torques up for a swing against the D-9ers during their SML matchup last Monday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND  
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St. Michael's evened its card

See ANGELS on Page 26

## Angie's Boys, R-Rebels to contest 1st finals slot

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND  
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REPORTER

Top contenders Angie's Boys and Refaluwasch-Rebels, are set to face off in the 3rd Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League upper bracket semifinals tonight at 6:30pm at the Garapan Basketball Court.

The two teams control their own destinies as a win gives the victor a twice-to-beat advantage in the championship round, which is scheduled for this coming Sunday in Garapan at 6:30pm.

The loser of tonight's match will face third-ranked Docomo Pacific either after a brief intermission at 8pm or at 6:30pm tomorrow night.

Last Sunday Pool A's R-Rebels defeated Pool B finalist Docomo, 86-73, after surviving its knockout match against the Insiders, 77-66, last Feb. 18.

Pool C's Angie's Boys sent Yuman Construction packing, 86-78, last Feb. 18 to advance to the semis.

The team also booted out the Rollers, 91-74, last Feb. 15 in a must-win continuation match from Feb. 7 in which Angie's Boys held a commanding 75-52



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND  
Refaluwasch-Rebels' Omar Nawaz elevates to get off a short-range shot in the paint against Docomo Pacific during their Blue Haus caging playoff match last Sunday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

lead with just six minutes left in regulation before rain called for the stoppage.

Rain gave league organizers all kinds of fits over the past two weeks, but things are expected to wrap up over the weekend—weather permitting.

An alluring \$600 cash prize goes to the champion squad in addition to bragging rights over the other 17 com-

### R-Rebels 86, Docomo Pacific 73

Shane Deleon Guerrero-Diaz got to work early last Sunday and tallied a baker's dozen coupled with 7 more points from Roy Norita

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